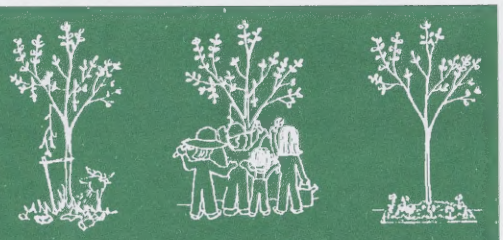
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Treebune



Tree Tenders' Quarterly Newsletter • January 1994 • Funded by The William Penn Foundation

From an Acorn Grows...

"There's something about the linking of arms that helps in getting things done."

Johannah Fines,
Tree Tender
Cross Baltimore

Prior to becoming Tree Tenders, **Lauren Leatherbarrow** and others in the **Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA)** had completed a comprehensive tree inventory. At the June training, Lauren was delighted to help other Tree Tenders interested in doing similar surveys. She too had benefitted from sharing information. "When we did our inventory, we found very good resources in our group and we piggy-backed on the **Center City Residents Association**'s inventory experience," she said.

Before the leaves dropped last fall, the **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders** adapted the SHCA survey for their neighborhood. With **John Manotti** as organizer and **George Russell**, the "Map Meister," eight Tree Tenders inspected existing trees to compile a formal inventory. Inspired by the activity, 15 neighbors from blocks north of Baltimore Avenue asked to use the Cross Baltimore adaptation for their area from Baltimore Avenue to Spruce Street. Cross Baltimore Tenders anticipate more neighborhoods will take up map and pen. The Tenders expect to use the computer-inventoried data to develop an action plan for a large portion of West Philadelphia - a project likely to attract prospective funding sources.

The hoopla you heard in West Mt. Airy on Nov. 13 was **Steve Donegan**, neighbors, school officials and students planting 25 trees along the **C.W. Henry School**. The **C.W. Henry Home and School Association** received an **America the Beautiful grant** for $4,490 last spring to plant trees and develop educational programs. In-kind matches such as **Hal Rosner**'s arboreal skills, **Philadelphia Green Tree Education Specialist Mindy Maslin**'s teaching program and **Art In Motion** video services were an impressive $9,540. Neighborhood support was phenomenal. Forty-seven volunteers showed up at the tree-planting seminar Oct. 30; over 200 knuckled down for the real thing that balmy Saturday.

In **Northern Liberties**, Tree Tenders' energetic dedication has inspired civic-minded residents to revive the Beautification Committee for the community of 4,000. The committee will once again be involved in neighborhood tree inventory, seeking grants and planting, and maintaining trees from Delaware Avenue to 6th Street; Spring Garden Street to Girard Avenue.

Yes.. You're a great Tree Tender

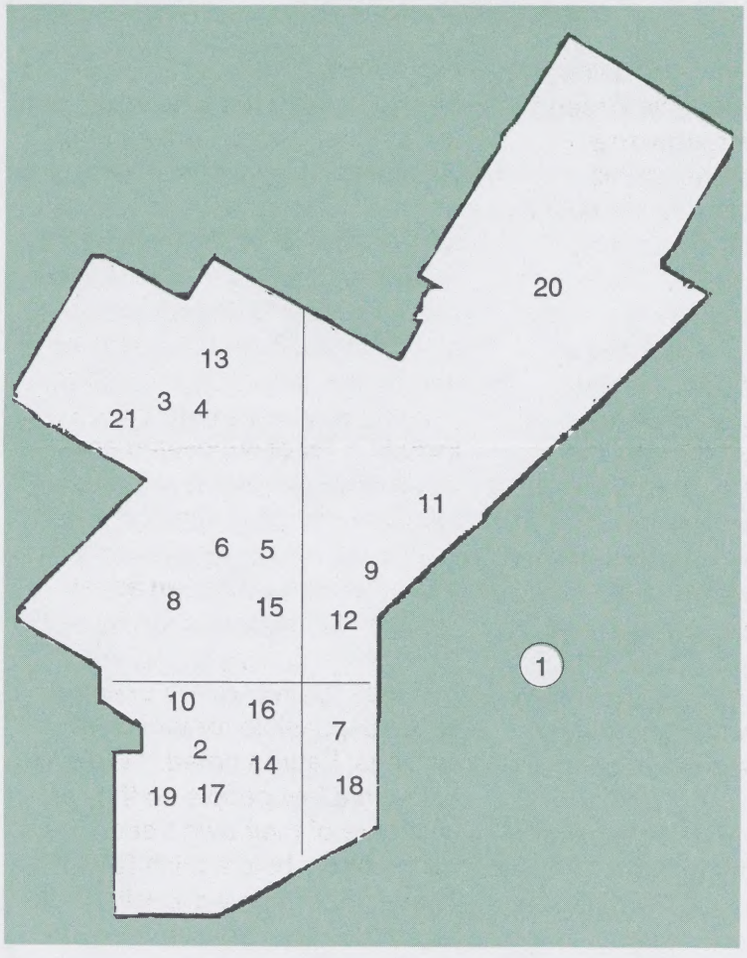
Do you have trouble walking past a tree surrounded by compacted soil without thinking of a cultivator and mulch? Do your pruning fingers start twitching when you see dead, dying, diseased or crossing branches? Do you want to knock on a door and alert the homeowner when you see a tree grate less than an inch from the tree trunk?

If you answer YES, you are not alone. There are now more than 100 **Tree Tenders** in Philadelphia and our numbers are growing. We are delighted to present this first issue of the Philadelphia Treebune - a quarterly newsletter for and by Tree Tenders. It's purpose is to update Tree Tenders on each other's projects, funding opportunities, programs and seasonal tree needs. We can also use it as a volunteer swap, enabling groups to assist each other with projects.

Enjoy this first issue and be sure to write in by Feb. 1, 1994 with updates, tips and stories we can use in our April edition.

Mindy Maslin
Tree Education Specialist

Branching Out



TREE TENDER GROUPS

1. **Collingswood Horticultural Society** Gayle Reedy, 609-854-3592
2. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders** Angie Coghlan, 729-6273
3. **C.W. Henry School** Steve Donegan, 232-5459
4. **Duval Improvement Association Tree Tenders** Madeline McGee, 848-0565
5. **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Tree Tenders** Ed Grusheski, 592-4908
6. **Friends of East Park** Anthony Langford, 763-9896
7. **Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders** Bob Pierson, 925-5971
8. **Habitat For Humanity** Frank Console/Sean Toner, 477-4639
9. **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tenders** Tom Lederer, 634-6330
10. **Larsage Neighbors** John Scott, 747-3117
11. **Norris Square** Iris Brown, 634-2227
12. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders** Sara & Karl Olsen, 922-6732
13. **Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders** Rebekah Ray, 844-7596
14. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders** Mamie Nichols, 334-2666
15. **Sixteen Hundred Block, Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders** Bill Jenkins, 765-8484
16. **Spruce Hill Community Association Tree Tenders** Lauren Leatherbarrow, 386-3905
17. **Squirrel Hill Tree Tenders** John Manotti, 898-8445
18. **Washington Square West** Virginia Trosino, 625-2599
19. **West Catholic High School Tree Tenders** Monica Brady, 365-6997
20. **Whitehall Tree Tenders** Carol Vanagaitis, 535-5301
21. **Wissahicken Tree Tenders** John Boyce, 482-1837

Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders

By Angie Coghlan

Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders have been quite busy in their little corner of West Philadelphia, 46th to 50th Streets, Kingsessing to Baltimore Avenues.

Their summer priority was to plant 32 new street trees. **Johannah Fines** headed the project - buying, transporting and overseeing the planting. The group purchased small saplings to keep costs low and transplanting simple. Tenders **Steve Conn** and **Jon Ferrin** hauled the cement excavated while enlarging tree pits to Winzinger Recycling, East Allegheny Avenue, Port Richmond, which recycles clean cement and brick. Tenders **Walt Lauderbach, Andrea Kaplan** and **Angie Coghlan** were among those prepping soil and planting willow oak, red maple, silver maple, dawn redwood and crab apple trees. They targeted corner properties to get the biggest bang for the buck in all four directions.

In concert, residents on the quaint **1000 block of South Farragut Street** raised funds, bought and planted nine trees as their contribution to the community effort.

Tree Tenders and neighbors alike adopted new saplings near their homes. Through summer heat and drought, they watered their adoptees and are happy to report each tree is thriving.

Besides cultivating, the Cross group convinced some residents to do removals. Nine dead trees and stumps were removed this summer, all at property owners' expense. Yes, it can be done - even with absentee owners. The secret is doing organizational work for the interested majority and whispering that magic word, LIABILITY, to a reluctant few.

Spruce Hill Rejuvenates... with Rebates

Tree Tenders in the **Spruce Hill Community Association (SHCA**) are offering a tree lover's dream. They'll give a $40 rebate to any neighbor interested in planting a new street tree or removing a dead tree. The project is **Rejuvenation of Our Urban Forest.**

Spruce Hill Tree lovers arrived at last year's June Tree Tenders class well prepared. They'd already completed a six-month inventory of trees in the University City area - 40th to 46th Streets, Market Street to Woodland Avenue. They'd identified 250 vacant tree pits and far too many dead trees. Their coffer held an America the Beautiful grant for planting. And they'd already used a SHCA donation towards inventory costs.

Fortified with Tree Tenders training, Spruce Hill Tenders sculpted a mission. "We decided our group's role was education - modeled on Philadelphia Green," said **Lauren Leatherbarrow**, Tree Tender and Spruce Hill board member. The America The Beautiful grant covered planting costs for five trees. But there was so much more to do!

Inventory in hand, Lauren, **Amanda Benner, Linda Blythe, Marianne Das and Charlotte Elsner** convinced the SHCA to donate $3,000 toward Rejuvenation of Our Urban Forest. The rebate program would reimburse neighborhood residents $40 for each tree planted or removed, up to a maximum three trees. About 10 association members have responded. Now the opportunity is open to any neighborhood resident.

"We really think it's important that people adopt their tree," Lauren said. "We don't want to just plant a tree in front of someone's house. Offering $40 is enough money to make people sit up and take notice - if they really wanted to do something."

Tree Tenders will send participants a packet of information including **Fairmount Park Commission** recommendations for pit size and tree type, and Philadelphia Green information about tree planting and tree care. They'll include a list of suggested contractors and inventory information related to growing conditions.

"We consider ourselves information brokers," Lauren added. "We can facilitate, but we cannot do it all."

Property owners are expected to be responsible for their own saplings, Lauren noted. "We'd like to teach a few people so they can take care of their own trees. We will probably hold a mini-Tree Tender class and work with block captains on a block clean up day."

Northern Liberties

Northern Liberties Tree Tenders have discovered their work reaps more than fine trees. **Karl Olsen, Sara Olsen, Mitch Deighan, Sally McCabe** and **Alex Mikuliak** inadvertently cultivated a dynamic community spirit among neighbors who'd been strangers.

As Tenders snipped branches and weeded tree pits, home owners grew to appreciate their initiative. Now they call the Northern Liberties Neighborhood Association, asking to have their trees tended. Karl said. "They are slowly becoming aware that we Tree Tenders are willing to prune and care for trees for free - to give advice and education."

When the Tree Tenders show up, neighbors come out to talk. "We explain what we're doing, then give them information about tree care," Karl added. "Some get involved in their own ways, like helping bundle up tree branches. It's amazing the concern they have. They really love the trees in the neighborhood. Their enthusiasm makes our job that much more enjoyable."

"Within a half hour of pruning trees, you've not only enhanced the look of the block," Karl continued. "You've gotten to know a lot of people you didn't know were here. Doing tree care is a simple, direct positive way to network and get to know your neighbors...

It's kinda nice."

Post This who, what, when, where

Events

January 15	10 a.m - 12 noon	***Calling All Tree Tenders!*** **Tree Care Work Day** Location to be announced. (We really need YOU.)
January 25	6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	**Grant Writing** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 *Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.*
February 8 - 11		Traveling F**ruit Tree Pruning workshops** Call Sally McCabe at 625-8280 for locations and times.
March 30	6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	**Building Your Organization;** **Reaching Out to Bring People In** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 *Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.*
April 1994	To Be Announced	**Arbor Month Programs** Call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for details.
June 1994	To Be Announced	**New Tree Tenders Training**

Resources

Fairmount Park Commission
Park Manager:
Walter Stankus 685-0014
District Arborists:
Mike Helsen 685-0014
North Philadelphia
Rich Sunday 685-1837
Center City and South
Ernie Barile 685-2577
Northwest Philadelphia
Gus Jardel 352-8645
West and Southwest
Charlie Patton 352-8794
Northeast Philadelphia

Morris Arboretum 247-5777
Plant Clinic ext. 141

Pennsylvania One-Call System Call Before You Dig
1-800-242-1776

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Hotline 922-8043

Winter Tree Care

- **Water** until the ground freezes, again at first thaw and through spring and summer. This is especially important with first and second year transplants.
- **Fertilize** mature trees in winter to promote root growth in early spring, but never fertilize newly planted trees.
- **Mulch** especially around newly planted trees to help insulate roots and retain moisture. Remember not to pile mulch around the trunk.
- **Prune** dead, damaged, and diseased branches while the tree is dormant and not producing food. Winter pruners, remove dead wood (branches with no buds) prior to pruning for form.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.

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Send comments, stories and inquiries to
Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut Street, Phila, PA 19106.
Deadline for submissions to the April issue is February 1.

Printed on recycled paper

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Philadelphia Treebune
The Tree Tenders' Quarterly Newsletter • April 1994 • Funded by The William Penn Foundation

HENRY SCHOOL: Personal Account Of A Greening Success

By Steve Donegan

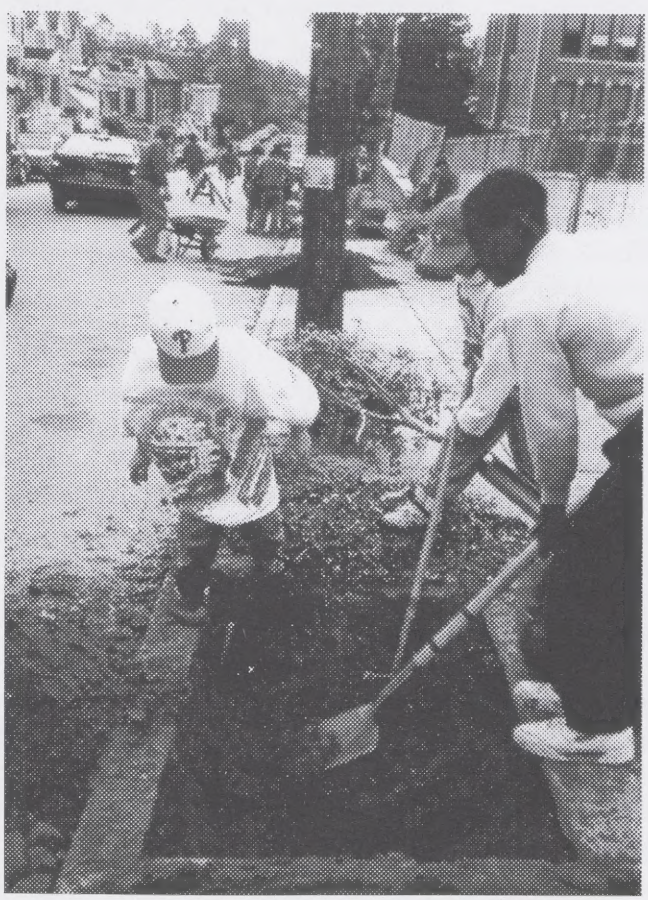
Philadelphia is one of the most beautifully forested cities in the nation. Its northwest neighborhoods, including West Mt. Airy, are noted for mature firs, sycamores, oaks and maples along quiet streets. Yet the neighborhood's **C.W. Henry School** was a barren spot in this green haven.

From Idea to Funding

In April '93, we submitted a proposal for an **America The Beautiful** grant to remedy the tree shortage and involve Henry School students in influencing their environment. The proposal sought $5,000 to plant 20 street trees around school grounds and purchase books about trees for the school library. **Hal Rosner**, professional arborist and Henry School parent, and teacher **Vicki Flood** assisted in developing the project.

Neighbors, community groups, local media and politicians provided essential support. Many wrote letters endorsing the grant; others including Hal, ***Art In Motion,*** **PHS's Philadelphia Green** program and the **Fairmount Park Commission** offered in-kind services totaling nearly $10,000.

Late last summer, when the **PA Urban and Community Forestry Council** notified us the project would be funded, we were ready to go! Hal had already researched appropriate species and located suppliers. Community interest was near peak.



Many Hands, Much Work

We had people power; the challenge was harnessing that energy. We matched volunteers' abilities with work: cutting tree pits, grinding old stumps, purchasing trees, removing soil. Having the right people where we needed them when we needed them was crucial. For example, we made sure to schedule sufficient able-bodied volunteers to unload the 10-feet tall, 300-pound trees from trucks.

Digging In

In late October Hal conducted a tree planting demonstration for nearly 40 women, men and children who planted our first tree.

Planting Day, Saturday, Nov. 13, was exciting. More than 100 enthusiastic volunteers dug in to plant 25 young sweet gum, Chinese elm, Crimson Cloud and Winter King hawthorn trees. Highlights included visits from Mayor **Ed Rendell**, Senator **Allison Schwartz**, Representative **Robert O'Donnell**, Council Person-At-Large **Happy Fernandez**, State Representative **Chaka Fatah**, Water Commissioner **Kumar Kishinchand**, school board members and Northwest Regional Superintendent, **Dr. Judy L. Brody**.

(continued next page, column 3.)

SPRING TREE TENDER TRAINING!

June 8, 15, 22

6 - 9 p.m.

PHS, 325 Walnut St.

To register, phone Mindy at 625-8280.

Branching Out

Successful Projects Can Be Good Politics

They began as the quartet of Tree Tenders from New Jersey; now they're the **Collingswood Horticultural Society**, cultivating environmental awareness in the community, schools and borough government.

"**Maureen O'Donnell, Denise Fox, Walt Berrier** and I left Tree Tenders in June with a great deal of enthusiasm and knowledge," said **Gayle Reedy**. "We also attended the Rutgers University class, How To Start A Tree Group. By late August, we'd searched out interested people in the community, met to form the society board, and decided on a structure and a mission."

Making Plans

The dynamic mix of neighbors included a forester, landscape architect, teacher, environmentalist, lawyer, accountant, horticulturists and public officials. Their immediate goals were clear: start planting trees on the main streets, beautify the borough's gateway, and educate with public seminars.

"We established a fall planting date and planned two public meetings in the high school auditorium. All we needed were people and money," Gayle continued.

When more than 50 people showed up to help, the society decided committees were the way to go: tree tenders, gateway/garden, education, street captains, publicity/grants/planning. State forester **Dave Johnson** organized the tree planters. **Joan Leonard** managed the business beautification committee.

The society also addressed the high school Environmental Club, which donated $500 for tree planting. The borough commissioners, new members all, contributed $200 and mounted a massive advertising campaign on the group's behalf.

Making Policy

"As a result, we planted 96 trees and started three of the gateway projects - landscaping the ends of the main streets and the PATCO HiSpeed line station," Gayle added. "Public Works Director **Brad Stokes** coordinated details to meet borough requirements, like arranging for permits. He and his crew even trucked the trees from the nursery to the planting sites. Thirty kids from the high school showed up to plant. A lot of people wanted to learn how to prune their trees correctly."

Word was out: the Collingswood Horticultural Society was a potential leader in tree planting and long-range community planning. "The commissioners then asked us to serve on the Shade Tree Commission and promised to hold two advertising campaigns for us in 1994," Gayle continued. "The borough has also asked us to help write new ordinances to protect the trees in town. We'll also help go over existing ordinances that pertain to sidewalks and curbs."

Gayle foresees an even more promising 1994. "We hope to double our membership and establish a town "Arbor Day" celebration that will become an established activity long after we're gone."

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Spruce Hill Teaches Tree Care

This spring **Spruce Hill's Street Tree Committee** will invite neighborhood block captains and block members to learn about tree care. The committee's Tree Tenders will demonstrate proper pruning, watering, aerating, tree identification and more.

Henry School - Continued

Seeing the Henry School Tree Project through from beginning to end was a great experience. Hal, Vicki and the West Mt. Airy neighbors demonstrated positive community spirit at its best. Special appreciation goes to Mindy Maslin and the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**, **Walt Stankus** of the **Fairmount Park Commission**, **Kimlar Saterthwaite** and **Dave Mora** of the **Philadelphia Water Department** and, of course, **Chuck Olenik** and **Norman Lacasse** from the **PA Urban and Community Forestry Council**.

Grants: Treasures Worth the Effort

"G is for grants, for green and for growing...and for the guts to ask for money," **Kathryn Terzi** of **Grovvina Resources** told Tree Tenders at their January workshop.

Kathryn and **Julianne Schieffer**, urban forester with the **PA Urban and Community Forestry Council**, offered a variety of tips for grant seekers. They and **Mindy Maslin** emphasized that funders look very favorably on community group collaborations. "The grants discussed tonight are very competitive," Mindy said. "To increase your chances, consider a proposal in cooperation with other groups and neighborhoods."

Based on experience as a grant reviewer and writer, Kathryn explained basics such as locating sources and submitting a proposal. The *Directory of Pennsylvania Foundations* was high on her list of resources. Other considerations include matching your project with the funder's mission, assessing funding chances and costs. "All fundraising requires a certain amount of detective work, follow-up and hope that there's a pot of gold at the end," she said.

Paving the way for your proposal to get a good reception is crucial to success, Kathryn stressed. "Fundraising is about building relationships with the grantors as an end in themselves and a means to an end. Use every contact to show them you and your project deserve their money. Even if your proposal isn't accepted on first try, a good impression could put you first in line for consideration next time."

As Extension Urban Forester for the Southeastern Counties, Julianne has guided many through the urban forestry council's **America The Beautiful** grant process. Special Grants of up to $5,000 for planting projects are available to volunteer groups. "The funders want to get a lot of bang for their buck. They like a cash match and community involvement," Julianne noted.The council especially appreciates volunteer efforts, innovative projects, educational components, rebuilding neighborhoods, drug rehabilitation, and matching senior and youth activities.

Recent Grant Awards to Tree Tenders

Northern Liberties:
America The Beautiful grant

Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council:
America The Beautiful grant & U. S. Small Business Adminstration (SBA) grant

Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders:
America The Beautiful grant

Wissahickon Tree Tenders:
U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) grant

Lend A Hand

Fairmount Water Works Spring Clean Up Saturday Mornings - April 23, May 7

Usually, the Fairmount Water Works Esplanade is a most inviting spot along the Schuylkill. But fall floods and winter weather undid the work **Water Works Tree Tenders** accomplished after last October's Philadelphia Green classes.

Railroad ties and river debris floated up to settle around river birch and serviceberry saplings the Tenders had fertilized and mulched for the winter. Torrents swept away EarthLife, the Philadelphia Water Department fertilizer of processed sludge and wood chips, mounded to protect the blue rug junipers. Winter ice and snow took their tolls.

Those interested in helping with the clean up from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays, April 23 and May 7, (Annual Fairmount Park Clean Up, Green Up) should phone **Ed Grusheski**, Interpretive Center Director, at 592-4908.

Stiles Street Tree Planting on April 16

The **Stiles Street Garden Group** and **Habitat for Humanity - West Philadelphia** will hold their first planting day on Sat. April 16.

Together the groups are committed to improving living environments through quality housing and community green space.

Persons interested in helping, contact **Sean Toner** or **Frank Console** at 447-4639.

Post This who, what, when, where

THE SIDEWALK ARBORIST

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

In '93, I must confess I became fixated on the tree pit in front of my house. Not the tree, mind you, but the pit itself -- home to a newly planted American elm hybrid known as "Delaware." Throughout last year's growing season, I probably paid more attention to that little patch of earth than any other flower, fruit or vegetable in my garden.

I wondered a lot about roots weaving their way through soil particles. And I ruminated about ugly things like compaction and mulch entropy.

My "field of dreams" became a "pit of visions." I began to understand and appreciate the landscape under ground: roots and soil, critters and rocks. The health and happiness of this tree, only a year in the Roxborough microclimate, were almost completely dependent on a synergistic dance between soil and roots.

Weekly I'd drop to my knees with trowel or cultivator, trying to get a sense if all was well down there. Aware of the fact that you're probably less obsessed with this particular ecosystem than I, I offer a few hard-earned tree pit health tips.

CULTIVATION:
With three-tined cultivator in hand, I practiced deep root massage. Cultivation loosens the crust that forms in upper layers of soil and mulch. I work the soil down about four to six inches. Don't worry if root hairs appear. The long-term goal is to encourage a deep root system that tolerates heat and drought stress.

SAUCER REFORMATION:
(Pardon the jargon) Four or five times a year I reinforce or build a small wall of soil to ring the tree pit and act as a catch basin. Keeping the saucer intact optimizes watering. Make sure the soil level doesn't creep up around the root collar though. Soil should be low on the basal flare of the tree's trunk and remain that grade throughout the pit to ensure good soil/air exchange.

FERTILIZER/SOIL AMENDMENTS:
After cultivating, consider adding slow-release fertilizer or compost. To offset winter road salt damage, work gypsum liberally into the soil -- especially streetside. Amendments such as sulphur and magnesium should be used judiciously.

WATERING:
Ahh ... my favorite horticultural practice, although not always horticulturally correct. After cultivation and saucer play, check to see if the soil is dry to the fingertips. If so, let a gentle water stream fill the saucer. Watch it drain, then fill two or three more times to flush excess road salt from the root zone. The trick is not watering too thoroughly too often. Plants must balance the water with air.

MULCH:
During winter, your mulch may have drifted blocks away. It's time to renew this pit protection. I prefer partially composted wood chips that permit healthy air and water flow, yet efficiently recycle local biomass. Wood chips are superior to shredded hardwood bark, which tends to hog water and encourage crusting.

Events

April 16	10 a.m - 12 noon	***Calling All Tree Tenders!*** **Arbor Month Tree Care Day** Call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for information We really need YOU!
April 23, 26, 27	11 a.m. - 2 p.m.	**PHS Toddler Tree Tenders Program**, *Children 3-6 years* Please Touch Museum. Phone Mindy at 625-8280.
April 30		**Spring Garden Sale** Look for mailing.
June 8, 15, 22	6 - 9 p.m.	**Spring '94 Tree Tender Training** PHS, 325 Walnut St. Phone Mindy at 625-8280.

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Arbor Month Activities in the Parks

Norris Square Park youth on the path to Arbor Month fun.

From early April through mid-May, from pre-schoolers to **Sierra Club Singles**, Arbor Month education and celebrations were especially welcome after the severe winter.

The celebration began on April 16 at the **Academy of Natural Sciences** where environmentally attuned singles played a fast round of Environmental Jeopardy before hitting the pavement. Outside, as the morning drizzle receded and the sun emerged, participants pruned and mulched trees and planted pansies along 19th Street.

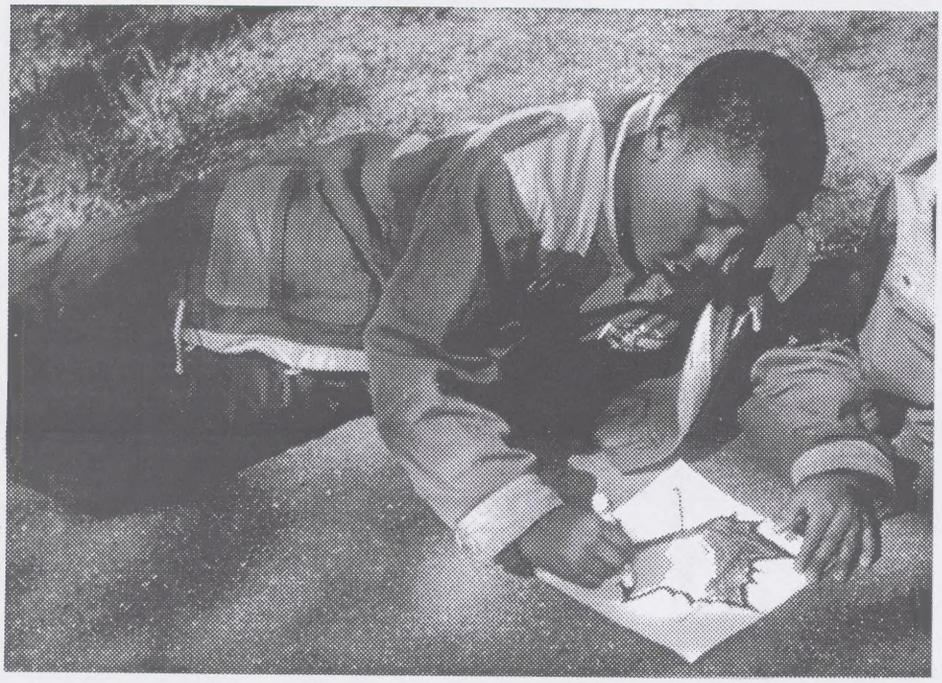
In **Norris Square Park**, cherry blossoms swirled as youngsters and oldsters celebrated a mid-month Arbor Day. **Indigo** of Norris Square and **Philadelphia Green** staff led students from **Hartranft, Welsh and Hunter Elementary Schools** and **Kensington High School** in Environmental Jeopardy, a nature scavenger hunt and mulching trees. **Norris Square Neighborhood Project** members and **Hospitality House** residents and staff helped keep the day's activities on track.

Marian Anderson Recreation Center, **Wharton Square**, and **Vernon Park** followed Norris Square's lead with Arbor Day celebrations of equal magnitude. These programs were part of the kick-off activities for the new Parks Revitalization Program encompassing all four parks.

"Tree Tenders" *are groups or individuals who have completed training in tree care with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in exchange for service to trees in their communities.*

In Marian Anderson Park, Philadelphia Green's Gigi Sheppard teachers youngsters to play "Stuck On Trees."

Activities in the Parks



Students sketch tree leaves in Vernon Park .

Arbor Month was packed full of events in neighborhood parks and schools, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the **Please Touch Museum** and the **Philadelphia Zoo**.

More than 1,000 students participated in Arbor Month programs citywide to promote park appreciation and tree awareness.

Toddlers got "Stuck on Trees" at the **Please Touch Museum** on April 23. They played the new hands-on tree game designed to teach the under-seven-set about things that grow on trees and why trees are important to us.

The youngsters also potted up tree seeds and made leaf decorations with Philadelphia Green's **Sally McCabe** and **Mindy Maslin.**

Huey Elementary School sponsored an Arbor Day Program in **Black Oak Park**. **Kate Loal**, a teacher at Huey, organized the students for a day of recycling, planting, park clean-up as well as art activities and games.

At the **Philadelphia Zoo Conservation Day** in mid-May, the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** (**PHS**) staff held afternoon family programs at the Children's Zoo.

Young ones and their parents played Environmental Jeopardy. They also learned tree planting techniques and received tree seedlings to nurture at home.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the **Speakers' Bureau** whose dedicated volunteers helped make Arbor Month activities a success:

Louise Hord
Pamela McIlvaine
Maltilde Salganicoff
Sharon Simpson
Joan Skotleski
Jayne Spector
Frank Stephano
Lois Winkler.

To start a Youth Tree Tender program at your neighborhood school, phone Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Whitehall Students Care

Green thumbs come in every size - as youngsters near the **Whitehall Recreation Center** and at the **Harding Middle School** in Bridesburg demonstrate.

Carol Vanagaitis calls them junior tree tenders - willing and eager to get down and dirty on a moment's notice. So far this spring they've planted eight Callery pears, tended and mulched scores of trees in the recreation center and school garden. Like so many children, their energy is astounding; their enthusiasm unbounded.

"I walk down the street and kids swarm around," said Carol, a Tree Tender and community activist. "They ask for brooms to sweep the sidewalk. They want trees to plant. There's no way to describe all the things they do. They're learning to tend the whole system."

In a neighborhood roughened by the grime and debris of industry and vandalism, young people are proving themselves the most valuable resource.

NEIGHBORHOOD REGULARS

Grant Blon, a certified Tree Tender and sophomore at **George Washington Carver High School**, acts as Carol's right arm. **Jerome Harris**, also a Tree Tender and sophomore at **Frankfort High School**, is great with the shovel - digging holes and mulching. **Jennifer Lutz** of **Sullivan Elementary School** reminds everyone about planting dates and activities. **Brian Woodra** of **Harding Middle School** picks up trash and broken glass, does light pruning and heavy watering.

EARTH SCIENCE STUDENTS IN ACTION

Further tapping this young potential, Carol and **Philadelphia Green's Mindy Maslin** have been working closely with **Maryanne Webb**, teacher of 7th grade earth sciences at Harding. Her students selected trees to grow in the tree lab while on field trips to **Snipes Nursery** in Morrisville, Bucks County.

Carol Vanagaitis and Harding Middle School students choose trees for the school lab.

Earth science student transplants saplings.

"They're wonderful, beautiful children. They not only dug the holes and planted the trees, they cleaned up with no complaints!" said Carol. "With Mrs. Webb, I hope that the school will stick to the tree tending curriculum."

"I think a lot of school students would like the opportunity to be junior tree tenders, to be able to take a class with Philadelphia Green to learn about caring for trees," she added.

Carol is looking for guest speakers in related subjects for the students in the Whitehall Recreation area. Anyone interested should call her at 685-1235.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAINTENANCE CREW

Adults are setting a good example, too. **"The maintenance crew at Harding Middle School** is so supportive! They mow the grass in the garden, pick up the bricks, do the trimming and edging. They manicure it so it's gorgeous," Carol added. "A kiss to every one of them."

Branching Out

Bare-Root Planting: Fast, Easy and Inexpensive!

This spring Philadelphia Green awarded three grants for bare-root trees to Tree Tenders who submitted proposals following January's Grant Writing Workshop. After learning the delicate technique of bare-root planting at **Princeton Nurseries** or from arborist Hal Rosner, Tenders picked up their trees on Saturday morning, April 23. By mid-afternoon, Tenders had planted all their trees in neighborhood parks, gardens and along streets.

LARSAGE AND CROSS BALTIMORE COLLABORATE

Shovels in hand, official and unofficial Tree Tenders were easy to spot in West Philadelphia.

Spanning a 12-block area around Baltimore Avenue and 50th Street, adults and children spent the sunny morning planting honey locusts and hawthorn saplings.

Theirs was a bounty shared.

As usual, **Cross Baltimore** and **Larsage Neighbors Tree Tenders** collaborated to make the most of available resources, noted **John Scott** of **Larsage Neighbors**. In this case, both communities benefited from a grant proposal written by **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders Angie Coughlan** and **Johanna Fines**.

Most saplings went to Larsage's Cedar Avenue residents who in February had talked with John about acquiring street trees.

"In a sense Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders are taking some of their bonanza and making it available to us," John said.

The newer Larsage group looks to Cross Baltimore for experience and encouragement - just as Cross Baltimore had already networked with Spruce Hill Tree Tenders.

"I think these connections that people make are the key thing. We learn together," John said.

Larsage Tree Tenders number five: John, **Alfred Godwin, Wayne Guise, Jacob McBride,** and **Joseph Shapiro**.

"We have about 20-25 people we can count on to pitch in on projects," John added.

Appreciative Neighbors

Watering the tree they'd just planted in front of their Cedar Street home, **Christine** and **Edward Day** were among those who sought and heartily appreciated the young street trees.

"Getting the neighbors together like this and planting trees - that's a nice effort," Christine said.

"We've been here for 10 years, waiting for a tree all that time. Today we finally got one. Later we'll get with our neighbors and talk about what flowers to buy and plant around the trees."

Meanwhile in Cross Baltimore ...

Across Baltimore Avenue on the 1000 block of S. 50th St., **Johanna Fines** and **John Ferrin** were directing Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders and volunteers in a special project.

"We planted 13 trees today - flowering pear, red maple, crab apple, red spire," Johanna explained, securing saplings to stakes. "We received a neighborhood grant from an anonymous donor in honor of a family member who died."

"Getting the neighbors together like this and planting trees - that's a nice effort," said Christine Day of Cedar Street.

Several youngsters patted earth around flowers in the tree pits, tilted watering cans and admired the day's work. **Tyshe'a Roberts, Jose Ayala,** and **Russell Stanton** had dug the planting holes. They pledged to keep a close eye on the street garden.

"It's a shame that people don't let it be," Tyshe'a lamented. "They pull up the flowers and plants. We have to watch out - and be sure to water them."

Studying the delicate branches, **Bernie Lewis** was delighted. "They planted a tree right in front of my building so I can see it! I plan to keep it pruned and keep mulch around it."

Cross Baltimore and Larsage also applied to America the Beautiful for 10 trees along Pine Street. "Cross Baltimore had a windfall and will generously make $750 available to us to make a $1,000 match," John said. "If the grant comes, we'll certainly have a tree-planting party. That's what we want to celebrate. We want people to see the trees have gone in."

KENSINGTON SOUTH

American elms once flourished in Penn Treaty Park and nearby Kensington neighborhoods. Decimated by Dutch elm disease, the native elms have all but disappeared. **Kensington South Tree Tenders** chose eight bare-root Zelkovas to plant along Second Street between Thompson and Master Streets.

"Although we have a few elms left, we'd like to have something in reserve," explained **Tom Lederer, Tree Tender** and co-chairman of the **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Executive Board**. "The Zelkova leaves remind us of the American elm. It's a very hardy species."

An enthusiastic mix of neighbors turned out to help, Tom said. "Fifth generation old timers, young Puerto Ricans, Palestinians, Arabs, Greeks - it was wonderful gathering of neighbors."

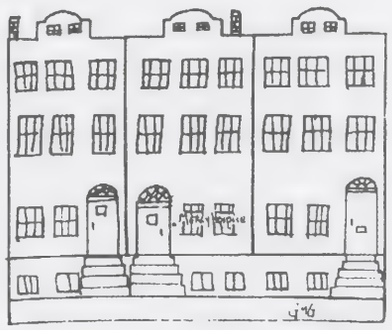
While Tom picked up trees that morning, **Tree Tender Joe O'Brien** got the volunteers working streetside. Men from a local halfway house added their muscle. "By the time I got back, not only did they have the tree holes dug, they'd cleaned the entire trash-strewn block that's outside a junkyard!" Tom said. "They were really good neighbors that day."

Marian Luongo of Pennsylvania State University's Master Composter program supervised mulching. "She made sure we got plenty of compost down around the trees, so they've got plenty to eat - vitamins," Tom added.

Afterward, everyone stayed for hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill, Tom addded. "We would like Mindy (Maslin) to do that again because it gives us a good excuse to have a barbecue without too much work involved."

Dear Virginia & Friends of the Washington Square Greening Committee,
We are touched by your thoughtfulness in awarding the trees to Mercy Hospice. Besides being beautiful, they are symbolic of new life which is such an appropriate symbol of the efforts of our women. We offer our heartfelt gratitude to you.

S. Eileen Campbell, Administrator



WASHINGTON SQUARE WEST

Crossing 10th Street, **Virginia Trosina** hauled a garbage can filled with dormant cherry saplings to the **Coles House** on Clinton Street. Minutes later **Louise Mockaitis** pulled up in a car filled with shovels and mulch. The two hurried to the backyards where they planted, watered and mulched four tender saplings in 30 minutes.

Tree Tenders and co-chairs of the **Washington Square West Civic Association**'s greening committee, Louise and Virginia were doing the fast-paced, bare-root planting drill.

Briefly looking up while she splayed roots in the moist earth, Virginia said, "Caring for trees is something to make my community better. Trees take pollution out of the air. They look and feel good!"

Holding a sapling upright, Louise talked as one smitten. "I think trees are fantastic. They do so much. They live under such adverse conditions. There are so many varieties. I just sort of fell in love with them!"

Earlier that Saturday morning they'd picked up eight columnar and zumi cherry trees at a Philadelphia Green workshop where arborist Hal Rosner explained the experimental planting technique.

Back in town, the two hurriedly planted cherry trees in the **Sisters of Mercy** garden and playground on 13th and Pine Streets, at **Coles House,** and at **McCall Elementary School** at 6th and Delancy.

"Planting all the trees in one day is demanding," Virginia said. "But placing a bare-root sapling is much easier than handling a heavy balled, burlapped tree."

In Partnership: Volunteers and the Fairmount Park Commission

Answering a Tree Tender's question or delivering a truckload of mulch, **Walter Stankus** and **Rich Sunday** participate in every Tree Tenders' training event. Walter is Park Manager II at the Fairmount Park Commission; Rich is the commission's District Arborist for Center City and South.

Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders and Fairmount Park staff work hand-in-hand to protect and maintain our urban forest.

Exploring the roles of park staff and community volunteers, we spoke with **James Donaghy, Director Operations and Landscape Management, Fairmount Park Commission** (FPC). FPC is responsible for Philadelphia's 61 parks (8800 acres) and 250,000 street trees.

"FRIENDS" CITYWIDE

"Volunteers are very important to Fairmount Park. We have 70 "Friends" groups across the city," Jim said. "We are well networked and we enjoy a good relationship with all of our "Friends" groups. Without their efforts, the park system would not look as good as it does today."

The volunteers' invaluable services run the gamut from raising money for maintenance contracts to periodic park clean-ups and trai repair, to planting and tending trees and gardens.

Their work and financial contributions are assessed at about $1.2 million annually.

While volunteer coordinator **Kate Lapszynski** deals with policy issues, Fairmount Park district managers, supervisors and arborists work directly with volunteers.

"I make sure that's a priority within our operation," Jim said. His field staff attend the "Friends" meetings and closely coordinate with volunteers about ideas and plans -- offering direction and the advantage of their expertise and professionalism.

"We want our volunteers to feel they are part of the Fairmount Park System, that their work is very important to us."

James Donaghy, Director Operations and Landscape Management, Fairmount Park Commission.

WITH TREE TENDERS

With the Tree Tenders program, park staff participates in the street tree care workshops and hands-on demonstrations.

Walt also works with community organizations applying for Small Business Association and America the Beautiful grants. Jim is the designated city representative who approves the requests. FPC is a recognized city tree expert, so its endorsement carries weight with granting organizations.

Neighborhood groups often contract with FPC to manage tree planting projects. One advantage is that FPC purchases trees guaranteed for one year.

"I think Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders is a great program; the people involved have an appreciation of the need for the urban forest," Jim said.

"We definitely need to educate the public about the need for care of our street trees and the urban forest. Because of all the stress on them, trees certainly require additional care."

"The Tree Tenders' services--limbing up of the young tree, and replacement of mulch-- are services that we could never provide through Fairmount Park," he added.

Budget cutbacks long ago eliminated FPC trimming services. Recently Fairmount Park reinstituted its tree removal and replacement program, but there's a huge backlog of requests.

Homeowners and community associations may call 685-0000 for information about tree planting in their districts.

"Beyond just the park, we work with many civic associations on

tree planting and tree care. It's nice to see the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** taking a lead in that role; they're coordinating that effort - so the same things are being done across the city in maintaining the trees," Jim noted.

The Original "Tree Tenders"

Mandated to tend Philadelphia's trees 100 years before PHS' Tree Tenders' program was designed, the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) has been key to the success of Tree Tenders.

"As the organization designated to care for city trees, FPC makes the Tree Tenders possible," noted Mindy Maslin, PHS Tree Education Specialist. "They regulate who can care for and how to care for trees. They issue permits for planting, removal and pruning. Without FPC support, Tree Tenders would really have their arms tied."

"FPC has been very helpful to us in getting the program going, providing training, and enabling people to do the work they want," she added. "They understand we can be a resource to them and they make our life easy to do that."

Bare-Root Basics

Although balled, burlapped trees have a better survival rate overall, bare-root planting has several advantages. At $20, a bare-root tree is less expensive than an $80-$100 balled, burlapped tree of comparable size. Also, digging the hole and carrying and planting the bare-root tree are relatively easy. A school-age child can lift a bare-root sapling easily. Balled, burlapped trees need three people with good backs just to move them.

Choose a dormant street tree preferably with a 2 1/2-inch caliper but not smaller than 1 1/2 inches across. Small trees are susceptible to vandalism. The larger the tree, the harder it is to damage.

With enough water and nutrients, properly planted bare-root trees should thrive. Hal Rosner, our Sidewalk Arborist, credits his high success rate to putting the trees in the ground quickly - within 20-30 minutes of receipt from a reputable supplier.

PLANTING TIPS

- Dig and prepare the planting holes before the trees arrive.
- Always keep bare-root trees in the shade. Because the roots and root hairs are vulnerable to sun, wind, cold and bruising, they should be covered at all times with a cool, damp material such as wet, shredded newspaper. Within a mere 5-15 minutes, the roots can dry out - so spray with water often while the tree's waiting to go into the hole.
- Trees not planted within the day should be heeled into soil.
- When digging, disturb the soil as little as possible. If the earth is fertile, clear away just enough for the planting. Digging too deeply will cause the tree to sink. In city conditions where the soil can be like rubble, it's sensible to dig a bit deeper to loosen soil so the roots get a better hold. If needed, supplement the soil slightly.
- Cut off broken roots above the break; clip bruised ends cleanly.
- Plant so the root flair is visible at the soil surface level. Tamp the soil repeatedly, in several layers, to anchor the tree. Shape excess soil into a circular ridge around the hole's edge, forming a saucer to hold water. Cover the saucer with about four inches of mulch. Don't pile mulch against the trunk! Fill the saucer twice with water.

PRUNING

To ensure vigorous growth, prune carefully. The central trunk usually should be left intact to build a high crown. Trim the side branches, cutting back by about one-third. Damaged branches should be trimmed off below the point of injury.

STAKING AND AFTERCARE

Newly planted trees benefit from the support and protection of two or three stakes (two-thirds as tall as the tree) tied to the tree with hose-cushioned wire or other soft material. Check the ties regularly and remove after a year to prevent girdling.

For the first few months, water daily if there's no rain. Through the first summer season, water thoroughly twice a week or as needed.

Post This who, what, when, where

THE SIDEWALK ARBORIST

By Hal Rosner,
Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

For all the care and attention I give our family street elm, I've never taken the time to assemble a tree guard that would defend the tree pit against urban stress. Yet I know street trees grown within the friendly confines of a tree guard have a tremendous advantage over those left open to various stress factors.

Take a minute and ask yourself: how safe is the square or rectangle of soil in which you've planted your neighborhood tree?

I know mine isn't. Looking at the elm growing in front of my house, I know it's completely vulnerable to a mountain bike tire, errant car door, cruising canine with full bladder, or substance abusing creature of habit.

Street trees under your care grow in a pit rarely larger that 12-square feet. So demands on the growing medium are many. Heading into summer, this mini-ecosystem will go through many changes. Urban forestry researchers tell us that trees have soil volume demands based on their crown spread above and root zone below. Simply stated: a tree in a pit must make do on limited soil resources.

The well-placed tree guard creates many opportunities for the little patch of urban forest floor.

TREE GUARDS: MORE THAN JUST TREE PRO-

- Guards which block street breezes across the pit allow mulch to start to compost. This organic material relaesed into the soil's top layers means more nutrients will be available to the root system.
- Guards keep mulch in place, enabling you to make a "saucer" (an indentation around the tree.) the saucer holds the water longer, preventing runoff and directing wter to the tree's roots.
- Other plants are now protected. The bulbs, groundcovers or mums sharing space with the tree are less likely to be tromped or picked if they have security.
- Most importantly, protecting the planting patch will prevent compaction and allow the soil to "breathe." Vital air spaces between soil particles will be preserved.

Tree guards can be assembled cheaply and quickly, often from recycled materials. Tree guards can be sleekly designed and ooze innovation. Tree guards can be iron, steel or bronze and can cost a small fortune. There are many options.

The most effective tree pit guards have foothold at all four corners. One group of neighbors placed a bowling ball-sized boulder at each tree pit corner - a naturalized effect that left open space for watering and planting.

Other popular materials include:

- Pre-fab sections of wire or wood fencing
- Pressure-treated lumber assembled into various configurations
- Bricks and Belgian blocks.

I favor structures built around the pit's perimeter, rather than hardware fastened at the trunk. Remember, a sturdy design will not only protect trunk, bark, and limbs. It will deter all sorts of invasions on the precious, sensitive root zone.

The main idea is to get the thing set up!

Tree pit guards send a message that this is someone's tree, not an abandoned, forgotten project. I promise by the next issue of the *Treebune* my tree's security device will be installed.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of
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with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin and Sally McCabe.
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Out And About in the Parks

By Maitreyi Roy & Eileen Gallagher

In October 1993, **Philadelphia Green** started its first phase of a program to revitalize four city-owned neighborhood parks with funds from **The William Penn Foundation**. PG staff works closely with the community and Philadelphia's **Recreation Department** to gather ideas, develop master plans, and attract volunteers for improvement projects. Each park has a history of volunteer support.

At **Wharton Square**, the recreation building bursts at the seams with activity. **Trudy Gay**, children's camp volunteer director, runs a fun, year-round program for more than 200 children. In 1988, Trudy, **Audrey Hill** and **Pat Coleman** held a delightful Easter egg hunt. **Councilwoman Anna Verna**, **Mamie Nichols** of the **Point Breeze Federation**, Trudy and the Recreation Department developed activities. Soon after, **The Friends of Wharton Square** organized to improve the park. **Robert Gay**, **Robert Taylor**, **Eddie Brooker**, **Frances Washington**, **Leroy Miles** and **James Stephan** are among those making Wharton Square a community focus.

If you would like to start a community park watch, the **Norris Square Park Patrol** is a successful example. In existence for seven years, the patrol enhances the neighborhood in many ways. It started in 1987 when **Namor Brown** and **Angelo Rodrigues**, two local teenagers, attended a program in Virginia sponsored by Legacy International - Education for Social Responsibility. Kids from all over the world gathered to understand and appreciate community spirit. The program required kids to develop a community project. Namor and Angelo created the Park Patrol to enhance their neighborhood in a long-lasting way. The Park Patrol is a positive presence, contributing to park upkeep while recognizing the importance of open space.

In 1984, the **Friends of Vernon Park** was formed by a group of Germantown residents and local institutions to reclaim **Vernon Park** as a focus of community activity. The Friends have held many park clean-ups, planting projects, special events and small fundraisers. **Don Simon**, Friends' President, spearheaded improvement efforts. Residents **John Sgrillo**, **Delmer Gill**, **Harold Wells**, **Charles Stanford**, **Pat McGrath**, and **West Central Germantown Neighbors** conducted numerous improvement projects. **Byron Woodson**, **John Lafley**, **Rennie Cohen** and **Roy Hock** led park revitalization efforts.

At **Marian Anderson Recreation Center**, community members and parents enhanced the center, making it a better community resource. **Brad Coons**, the **Godboldt family**, the **Beale family**, **Thelma Henderson**, **Marsha Custalow**, **Juan Levy**, **Lori Heyman**, **Oscar and Yvonne McCoy**, **Teddy Dexter**, **Donna Bond**, **Ernest Ice**, and many dedicated volunteers removed graffiti, painted walls and planted shrubs. Center staff provided ongoing support. Special thanks to **Timmy Robinson** of the Recreation Department maintenance staff who cares for the grounds and new plantings.

Many exciting events and projects are planned at all four parks. For information or to volunteer, call **Maitreyi Roy** at **625-8280**.

Children from the Norris Square neighborhood celebrate with face painting after cleanup activities in the Park

Branching Out

Liz Campion, of the 4800 block of Walton Street, and Tree Tender Angie Coghlan stand by the London plane where Liz tied her dog, Tramp , to halt unauthorized street tree removal.

Walton Ave. Resident Taps West Philly Tree Tenders' Network To Stop Tree Felling

Arriving home for lunch on August 15, **Liz Campion** was shocked to see a beautiful 60-year-old maple felled on the 4800 block of Walton Avenue. A construction crew was downing a huge London plane across the street. Her healthy London plane, marked with white paint, was next.

Liz had given no one permission to take her tree! The Ramos construction crew dismissed her vehement protests. She quickly phoned **Tree Tender Angie Coghlan** and others for help halting the destruction. Angie suggested a call to **Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell**, who arranged for a Stop Work order.

Back outside, Liz tied her dog, Tramp, to her tree to prevent workers from sawing. "My neighbor Bernie was practically in tears. He had made what he thought was a vigorous protest about his maple tree; they perceived it as a token protest, went right over and took the tree out," she said. "Then they came to the youngest sycamore."

The tree felling was a routine part of a **Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority** project to install new concrete curbs and sidewalks in parts of Cedar Park. About 25 trees plus stumps were slated for removal on the 4800, 4900 blocks, Cedar and Walton Avenues, and part of 49th Street. Owners hadn't been notified the street trees were to be taken, though.

Adding insult to injury, the Redevelopment Authority and the construction company had NO tree removal permits in-hand. **Gus Jardel**, an arborist with The **Fairmount Park Commission** which is charged with issuing tree removal permits, said his office was not contacted for these permits.

Noel Eisentat, Redevelopment Authority Executive Director, said the authority "is responsible for getting permits" when street tree removal is planned. He declined to comment further about the overall procedure for permitting or street tree removal. Walton Avenue "was somewhat of a comedy of errors," he said. "I am not going to engage in revisiting history."

Local residents found the tree removal no laughing matter. Liz and concerned neighbors organized a public meeting for the next morning. Angie and **Tree Tender Johanna Fines** phoned Tree Tenders and residents, urging them to join the 7 a.m. gathering where Councilwoman Blackwell listened to all sides. The issue: Neighbors wanted their recently torn-up sidewalks replaced, granite curbs retained and healthy trees saved.

The Stop Work order temporarily halted removal, giving residents time to develop their own plan. They consulted with Hal Rosner, a PG Tree Tender trainer and the *Treebune*'s Sidewalk Arborist. They chose to have the less healthy trees removed and tree pits included in new sidewalk construction.

Councilwoman Blackwell deserves tremendous credit for mediating the neighborhood meetings where compromises were made, agreed Liz, Angie and Johanna.

Fairmount Park Commissioner and **former PHS president Ernesta Ballard** was instrumental in getting city officials to rectify the problem, Liz added.

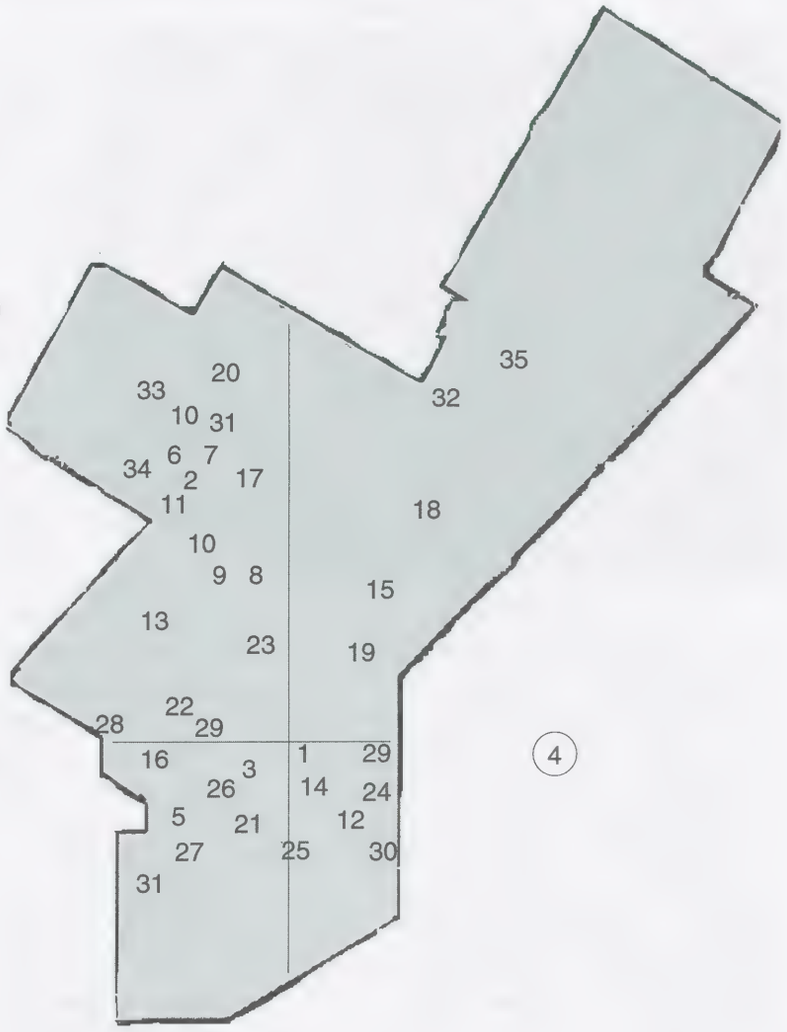
Fairmount Park Commission arborist Jardel said he's watching the situation. "The Redevelopment Authority contractor made a mistake and got a disciplinary letter," he said. "I think we are handling it correctly this time. We pretty much put the decision (selecting trees to remove and installing tree pits) in the people's hands. The Authority is going to replant the whole neighborhood." He calculated 23 trees were removed; 15 at residents' request. He said the plan listed 25 to go.

Liz is still concerned. The trees removed on Walton Avenue were fifth and sixth of 26 to be felled under plan #17, she said. She wondered how many other Redevelopment Authority projects have proceeded without tree removal permits and resident notification. "On Sept. 30 I saw the same crew removing a block of healthy looking trees on Oregon Avenue. How do we prevent this from happening in other neighborhoods?"

Post This who, what, when, where

TREE TENDER GROUPS

1. **Beau Gardens** Mark Moncavage, 627-4218
2. **Bluebell Hill Tree Tenders,** Bruce Trumper, 849-7669
3. **Bookworms** Arty Cholminski, 735-6168
4. **Collingswood Horticultural Society** Gayle Reedy, 609-854-3592
5. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders** Angie Coghlan, 729-6273
6. **C.W. Henry School** Steve Donegan, 232-5459
7. **Duval Improvement Association Tree Tenders** Madeline McGee, 848-0565
8. **Fairmount Parents, Business, Neighbors Association** Rose Marie Pasicznyk, 236-2671
9. **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Tree Tenders** Ed Grusheski, 592-4908
10. **Friends of East Park** Anthony Langford, 763-9896
11. **Friends of Queen Lane Station** Nanci Harmon 848-2854
12. **Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders** Bob Pierson, 925-5971
13. **Habitat For Humanity** Frank Console/Sean Toner, 477-4639
14. **Kater Street** Marsha Canfield, 592-1614
15. **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tenders** Tom Lederer, 634-6330
16. **Larsage Neighbors** John Scott, 747-3117
17. **Neighborhood Economic Development Program** JoAnn Monte, 978-5930
18. **Norris Square** Iris Brown, 634-2227
19. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders** Sara & Karl Olsen, 922-6732
20. **Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders** Rebekah Ray, 844-7596
21. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders** Mamie Nichols, 334-2666
22. **Powelton Village Civic Association** Marilynn Taylor, 386-2240
23. **Sixteen Hundred Block, Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders** Bill Jenkins, 765-8484
24. **Society Hill Civic Association** Jean Bodine, 627-8393
25. **South Philadelphia Tree Tenders** Anna Maria Vona, 336-3154
26. **Spruce Hill Community Association Tree Tenders** Lauren Leatherbarrow, 386-3905
27. **Squirrel Hill Tree Tenders** John Manotti, 898-8445
28. **Urban Gardeners** Maureen O'Hara, 560-4167



29. **Urban Landscaping Club** Brooke Coldiron, 574-1473
30. **Washington Square West** Virginia Trosino, 625-2599
31. **West Catholic High School Tree Tenders** Monica Brady, 365-6997
32. **Whitehall Tree Tenders** Carol Vanagaitis, 535-5301
33. **Wissahickon Stewardship Program** Jason Lubar, 242-2059
34. **Wissahickon Tree Tenders** John Boyce, 482-1837
35. **Wissinoming Park Advisory Council** Annette Thibeault, 289-6597

Resources

Morris Arboretum 247-5777
Plant Clinic Ext. 141

Pennsylvania One-Call System
Call Before You Dig
1-800-242-1776

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Hotline 922-8043

Fairmount Park Commission

Park Manager:
Walt Stankus 685-0107

District Arborists:
Mike Helsen 685-0014
North Philadelphia
Rich Sunday 685-1837
Center City and South
Ernie Barile 685-2577
Northwest Philadelphia
Gus Jardel 352-8645
West and Southwest
Charlie Patton 352-8794
Northeast Philadelphia

The Sidewalk Arborist

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Urban Forest Monoculture: A Mixed Blessing

Throughout the 2500 block of S. Colorado are street trees and remnants of plantings, probably Tilia x europaea, almost a century old.

There's this block I know in South Philadelphia that I found by mistake. I was looking for 2500 South something-or-other near Colorado Street. Neck craned over my shoulder, I was startled into yelling something like "Yow, look at this!" But this block, 2500 S. Colorado, is something real special. I, therefore, nominate it **"Best of Philly - Place To Be Blown Away By Urban Forest Splendor."**

Now Mr. Joseph Ambruso has lived on this little block of Girard Estates since 1955. He estimates the THIRTY linden trees lining his street had been there 50 years when he bought his house. See, Mr. Ambruso and his neighbors share the opinion that these THIRTY linden trees are 90 years old, were shipped over from Germany, and planted in 1905 in front of virtually every house.

What's extraordinary about these THIRTY trees is how absolutely wonderful and livable they make this urban parcel. All that stuff about shade, cooler, cleaner air? It's true! It really works!

"When we moved in, you could still touch the low limbs," recalls Mr. Ambruso. Today the arching canopy kicks in at about 45 feet. Sidewalks have been expertly sculpted around trunk bases.

Throughout the Philly-metro area I've happened upon street plantings of horse chestnut, Kentucky coffee tree, river birch, and even Chinese Toon. Each time the effect is magnificent. The repetition, where bark, trunk and branch configuration march down the way, is handsome, dramatic. Humbling.

Now that I've sung the praises of using one type of tree, let's have a reality check and perhaps a word of caution. Monoculture planting is a gamble. Line-outs of a single species have resulted in heartache and loss when insects or disease decide to go along for the ride.

It only takes only one little hungry unisex critter or free flying fungus to set nature's ecological perfection into motion. First one tree succumbs, followed by urgent charge to save trees through various treatments. Many of us have our own personal stories of American elm loss in what was once a green, leafy, shaded neighborhood. Another chapter of monoculture backfire is being written today as the city's population of London planes withers away from root graft transmission of canker stain disease.

The solution here is diversify. Come up with a mix of trees that somehow compliment each other. Diversity is cool because it begins to replicate a hardwood forest. Diversity provides an extended, varied season of interest coming from two or more species.

Many of us have assumed the responsibility of choosing the "right tree for the right location." It's important to find that second or third tree to add to the mix. In species diversification, the urban forest becomes more resilient to potential losses due to unforeseen insect and disease outbreaks.

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Funding: **The William Penn Foundation.**

Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut St., Phila, PA 19106.
Deadline for submissions to the January issue is November 1.
Printed on recycled paper.

Gaskill Tree Tenders Maintain Their Urban Forest

Walking down **Gaskill Street** with **Tree Tenders Bob Pierson** and **Henry Haupfueher** is like strolling through a living history book. Each tree has a story intertwined with its urban stewards.

For example, the cherry tree they and neighbors planted on Lombard Street in 1991 was knocked over in 1992. With lots of tender loving care, the cherry stands upright and healthy today. They talk about the setbacks, progress and benefits of every pin oak, plum, willow oak, hawthorn, red maple and pear tree. "That's good diversity. The birds love the hawthorn berries in the fall. In the spring, the cherries and plums have wonderful pink flowers," Henry said.

Even before Tree Tenders began, a "critical mass" of people were stewards in 1980, 1991, 1993-1994, Bob noted. In the last three years, they've planted 13 trees with money from the Queen Village recycling program. "We went to Tree Tenders to learn more about trees. We learned a lot about the particulars - how to recognize stress and disease, how to prune," he added.

Most everyone who wants a street tree has one. The challenge now is maintenance in the face of damage from recycling trucks, vandalism and pets.

"The biggest threat to trees is young drunk males. They want to see if they can crack them in half," Bob added. "They've tried to pull one out of its hole." Tree Tenders successfully reanchored it

"We're nursing another one back to health," Henry said. "Someone snapped the top off, then propped it upright. We moved it to the playground for recovery. It sprouted and is two, three feet tall - more like a bush than a tree now. We've fenced it in. Hopefully it'll recover."

Henry Haupfueher saws a low-hanging limb while Bob Pierson spots a short, dead branch just right for the clippers.

Crabapples and Honeylocusts Do Well After Bare Root Planting

This spring, Tree Tenders around the city participated in experimental bare-root tree plantings. Assisted by **Hal Rosner** of **Bartlett Tree Experts** and **Walt Stankus** of the **Fairmount Park Commission**, nine communities received 65 trees. Smaller than usual, bare-root trees are a potential solution to traditional street tree planting barriers. They are cheaper to purchase and easier to plant.

Their potential problems are related to their virtues. With a 1-1/2-inch caliper compared to larger standard trees, bare-root trees are more prone to vandalism. With roots exposed to the elements, they are susceptible to transportation damage and transplant shock.

The experiment was to see if the survival rate would merit future plantings. A 50 percent survival rate was considered acceptable.

Two months after spring planting, a survey showed that sixty-five percent (42 of 65 trees) survived.

More interesting is the survival rate breakdown by species. The crabapples flourished at a 96 percent! Seventy-five percent of the honeylocusts lived. The zelkovas and hawthorns were hit hard; 70 percent and 64 percent died. We attribute their high mortality rates to planting delays and last winter's extreme temperatures.

The real test will be long-run survival. The short-term success rate justifies planting replacement bare-root trees this November. And next spring we hope to get an early start planting. Let's hope Mother Nature cooperates!

Youth Tree Corps *By Mindy Maslin*

Philadelphia youth learned and used tree care skills in their neighborhoods this summer as members of the Youth Tree Corps.

A precursor to the Tree Tenders, the Youth Tree Corps operates much the same way with indoor tree education and outdoors hands-on application.

Jefferson Square kids in South Philadelphia mulched and weeded, pruned trees and planted flowers in the park and at **Washington Elementary School,** under the guidance of **Joel Spivac** and **Dennis Donahue**.

Campers at the **Allen's Lane Art Center** spruced up the art center in Fairmount Park.

Members of **Boys Club** and **Girls Club of Germantown** worked with **Tree Tender Catherine Franklin** at a local garden.

In North Philadelphia, youngsters at the **Wagner Free Institute of Science** tended trees and learned about their importance by playing the games of Tree-mendous Feats and Environmental Jeopardy. Wagner and Allen's Lane children on field trips had opportunities to see different trees.

Our future Tree Tenders have been well prepared with good information and a caring attitude. If your community is interested in a Youth Tree Corps program next summer, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Philadelphia Green's Tree Program 1994 Update *By Susan Phillips*

The Tree Program, funded by **The William Penn Foundation** for three more years of comprehensive community tree planting, completed year-one in June. Working with a record 155 block organizations and community groups, neighborhood residents and volunteers, Philadelphia Green's Tree Program planted 40 new street tree blocks, planted trees on 54 vacant lots and improved 28 established lotscapes.

"Applications for street trees arrive daily from our new target neighborhoods in South Central, Kensington, East of Broad and Lehigh/ Allegheny as well as waiting-list requests from residents city-wide," reports project manager **Susan Phillips**. **Jose Garcia**, assistant coordinator, has surveyed most of the fall planting sites and scheduled community meetings this fall.

The staff recently completed preparations for their **Street Tree Inventory**, established to track the success and maintenance needs of the program's plantings. The inventory is slated to begin this fall. If you would like to be part of the "inventory team," call Susan or Jose at 625-8280 to reserve a seat at the free Inventory Training Workshop.

Tree Pit Guard Contest

Send us a slide of your best tree pit guard. Winners will receive pruning tools.

Deadline February 1.

Philadelphia Treebune
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 2 • No. 1 • JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1995

Wissahickon Takes Root

The **Wissahickon Tree Tenders** are a small, determined group in a neighborhood of 6,000 that extends from Fairmount Park at the Wissahickon Creek to Ridge and Henry Avenues. Since becoming Tree Tenders in June 1993, **John Boyce**, **Mary Eileen Williams**, and **Hal Rosner** have obtained two grants and organized the planting of 35 trees.

"The Wissahickon Tree Tenders are part of the **Wissahickon Interested Citizens Association (WICA)**," said John, WICA's park beautification committee chairperson. Neighborhood champions are **WICA president Mike Sweeney**, **Jeff Alegretti**, and **Phil Moyer**.

"Our group is successful because everybody supports it," John said. "They help at the plantings."

About 30 neighbors came out to plant 15 balled and burlapped trees at Wissahickon's first planting in September 1993. Tree Tenders had purchased the trees with a $1,000 grant from the **Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)**. "We were able to stretch the money because **we** dug the pits, planted, and mulched," John said. "Everyone who got a tree paid toward its cost. The community group donated $300. Fairmount Park supplied mulch."

John prepped recipients with an instructional workshop about tree care and distributed **Philadelphia Green**'s information. "People got excited. When they got trees, they knew what to do," he added.

Last June, the Tree Tenders contracted with the **Fairmount Park Commission** to plant 20 more trees, thanks to a **Small Business Administration, Bureau of Forestry** grant. "Everybody worked so hard last fall, we needed an alternative to all-community plantings," he said.

Many recipients paid $25 more for larger pits which reduce sidewalk upheaval and aid tree growth. All signed pledges to care for the street trees.

Down the hill near the War Memorial, a small informal arboretum has sprung up in a shaded mulch pile. Thanks to Phil Moyer's attention, two bare-root trees left over from spring planting bloomed while awaiting fall transplant.

There's always room for more, John added. "Our next PEC grant proposal will put four trees on Kalos Street above Rider."

Walton Avenue Update

Standing tall, objecting strongly, and connecting with the right people can be effective.

Walton Avenue resident **Liz Champion** wasn't sure efforts on behalf of neighborhood street trees were being taken seriously. Last August she'd sought help from **Tree Tenders Angie Coughlan** and **Johanna Fines** and others to stop blanket tree removal in a **Redevelopment Authority** project on Walton and Cedar avenues.

An agreement was reached to replace the trees. Since then little progress was evident until Dec. 8, when crews showed up to plant 32 hefty columnar cherries, Japanese tree lilacs, October glory red maples, and male ginkgos in Cedar Park.

Gus Jardel, Fairmount Park Commission Arborist, had specifically selected trees based on residents' requests, planting conditions and seasonal color.

During the planting, Liz noticed that the contractor, Bustleton Tree Services, wasn't removing the heavy plastic encasing the maple trees' root balls. "I called Princeton Nursery who said the trees will die if the plastic's not removed," Liz said. The crew cooperated with her request to dig up the trees and remove the plastic.

Community reaction to the unannounced tree removal last fall stirred city officials. As a result, in November the City Council rules committee met to consider **Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell**'s proposal to inform residents about large-scale utility and city projects.

Liz, Angie, and **Tree Tender Lauren Leatherbarrow** testified to support timely public review and comment.

The Sidewalk Arborist

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

A reader asks: Last week a tree crew cut down what appeared to be a perfectly healthy London plane right on my block. When I asked if they had a tree removal permit, they told me to get lost. I've heard a permit from the Fairmount Park Commission is necessary. What's the story?

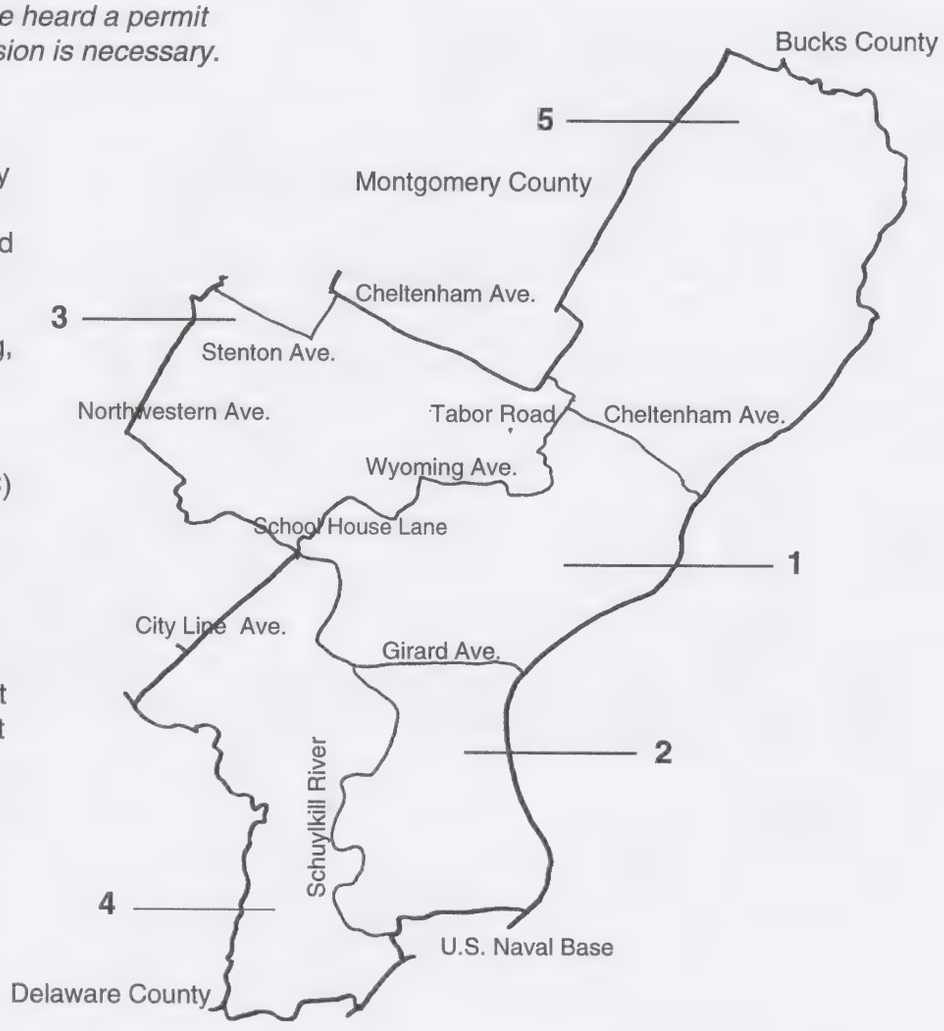
Tree work performed on Philadelphia's street trees can only be done after Fairmount Park has inspected and subsequently issued a permit. Permits are legally required not only for removal, but also for spraying, pruning, planting, and fertilizing.

The permitting process is important because it allows the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) to monitor and track what type of work is being done. Entered in a computer program, the data provides important information about the health of the urban forest. Applying for a permit can weed out fly-by-night operators who may not be properly insured.

Additionally, Fairmount Park's district arborists are a knowledgeable group who can provide valuable technical assistance when a homeowner is gathering information or considering options.

If a work crew snarls at your inquiry for permit, get on the cellular with your FPC district office and notify them of the situation. On weekends and holidays, you may have to call the police who have been known to shut down a job.

Finally, consider having your FPC arborist over for a soft pretzel and Black Cherry Wishniak. Give a tour of what you and your tree-tendin' neighbors have done or intend to do as part of community forestry. Schmooz wisely and you'll gain a valuable contact in your greening network.



Fairmount Park Commission

Park Manager:
Walt Stankus 685-0106

District Arborists:

Mike Helsen 685-0010
District One, North Philadelphia

Ernie Barile 685-2577
District Three, Northwest Phila.

Rich Sunday 685-1837
District Two, Center City &South

Gus Jardel 352-8644
District Four, West & Southwest

Sarah Hoster 685-8795
District Five, Northeast Phila.

Arboreal Musings

I Never Met A Tree I Didn't Like

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

I don't think there's any such thing as a bad tree. However, the right tree in the right place is important.

First of all, people shouldn't plant big trees under power lines for two reasons. One is safety. Youngsters climbing trees can get burned, seriously injured, or killed. The other is economic. When the electric company prunes trees, it passes the costs on to utility customers. Sometimes a drastic pruning job can leave a misshapen tree covered with pruning scars. Although they try to keep up with arboricultural and horticultural practices, power companies aren't in the tree business.

Walking around the **Centennial Arboretum** at the **Fairmount Park Horticultural Center**, I see about 150 tree types and I like every one. There are common and rare specimens as well as good street trees.

I think we should plant native trees wherever possible. They have a good track record and are acclimated to conditions. See the American beech trees near the big magnolias? They were here during the 1876 Centennial and are still in pretty good shape. The beech tree is one of my favorites. Of course, every tree is one of my favorite trees.

The American sycamore, which dates back to the Centennial, is a magnificent species that hasn't been affected by anthracnose or canker stain. We find some little seedlings now and then which I put back in the woods. They transplant very well. The London planes, a cross between oriental sycamore and American sycamore, planted in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, were bare-root stock that seemed to take.

Many introduced species adapt, especially trees brought across latitudes, for example, from Korea. Bringing trees from the South to the North is hard because of the heat and light requirements. The *Maackia amurensis* from the Far East is probably the street tree of the future. It's a nice looking, insect- and disease-resistant tree that we're going to try. It fixes its own nitrogen, making nitrogen out of the soil so you don't have to feed it. The row of *Maackia* on Wayne Avenue around Chelten Avenue is doing very well.

The golden rain tree, *Koelreuteria paniculata*, is an introduced species we use on the street. It has very nice seed pods, like Chinese lanterns. It's disease- and insect-resistant, not too big, and easily pruned.

The hardy rubber tree from the Far East is good to have around because the leaves drop within a matter of a day or two, which makes raking easy. With few insect and disease problems, it makes a very good street tree but is in short supply.

No matter how much I like a tree I don't recommend planting too many of the same kind. Planting monocultures as we did with the London plane and the American elm has caused problems. The elms contracted Dutch elm disease. Anthracnose and canker disease have taken their toll on the London planes. On city streets, just about every London plane has some degree of canker stain, a non-reversible disease that invades and blocks the conducting tubes, the xylem and phloem. The tree starves to death. Pruning the diseased branches will help but the disease always prevails.

Even the ugly or "bad" tree has its place. That includes the *Ailanthus altissima* - the tree that grew in Brooklyn. It grows in back alleys, abandoned fields. We even have *Ailanthus* in the arboretum; four are growing pretty well. They're very weak-wooded trees, easily injured by ice and wind storms, and susceptible to anthracnose which makes the leaves turn brown and wither.

Although not a good street tree, the Ailanthus still helps the environment. Studies indicate that each day it takes 78 trees to purify the air for one person. In terms of giving off oxygen and taking in carbon dioxide and cleaning up the air, a tree is basically a tree.

The ginkgo on the knoll at the horticultural center entrance is a Centennial tree. Actually the ginkgo, also called Maidenhair tree, was native to this part of the world. It died off here during the ice age. About 300 or 400 years ago, the ginkgo resurfaced in China where monks started propagating them. Some people think the fruit has an objectionable, pungent odor. It's the nature of the beast. Still I like it.

Four years ago, I did a tree inventory on Roosevelt Boulevard. Near Tyson Avenue is a stand of ginkgo trees. Some neighborhood oriental women were picking up the fruits in the medial strip. I said to one, "Come on now, what do you do with these?" She said, "You come back tomorrow. I'll tell you what we do with them." I came back the next day. She had a bag of fried or roasted ginkgo nuts. Let me tell you, they tasted just like almonds. They were so delicious, I asked for another bag.

The ginkgo is one tough tree. In all my time with the city I've only seen four, five dead ginkgos. We still plant the male variety, a Princeton Century ginkgo, on the street.The ginkgo is a dioecious tree: a male and a female are needed to form fruit. If you look in nature, usually the male tree is the bigger, taller tree because it doesn't have to use energy to produce fruit. A female tree in a state of decline is likely to pump out a lot of fruit to keep its species going.

Next time you're outside, take a new look at some tall old friends.

Post This who, what, when, where

Wednesday, Feb. 1 6:00-8:30 p.m.	**Grant Writing** PHS, 325 Walnut St., RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280. Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.
Wednesday, May 3 6:00-8:30 p.m.	**Building Your Organization** PHS, 325 Walnut St., RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.
Wednesday, June 14, 21, 28 6:00-9:00 p.m.	**New Tree Tenders Training** PHS, 325 Walnut St., RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280. All are welcome.

Winter Tree Care

Water until the ground freezes, again at first thaw, and through spring and summer. This is especially important with first and second year transplants.

Fertilize mature trees in winter to promote root growth in early spring, but never fertilize newly planted trees.

Mulch especially around newly planted trees to help insulate roots and retain moisture. Don't pile mulch around tree trunks.

Prune dead, damaged, and diseased branches while the tree is dormant and not producing food. All you winter pruners, remove dead wood (branches with no buds) prior to pruning for form.

Use sand, mulch, bird seed, crushed corn cobs on icy walkways instead of salt (sodium chloride). Salt spray is toxic to trunks and branches; melting salt damages plants' roots. Calcium chloride is less harmful.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
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215-625-8280

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FINAL NOTICE!

Tree Pit Guard Contest

Send a slide of your best tree pit guard to Mindy by Feb. 1. Winners will receive pruning tools.

Philadelphia Treebune
from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
Vol. 2 • No. 2 • APRIL 1995

The Urban Tree Connection: Germantown to Wynnefield

Nestled on Germantown Avenue near School House Lane is a green lot where **National Tree Trust** saplings thrive beneath mounds of woodchips. This spot also nurtures a sense of community service and career possibilities in students through **Skip Wiener's Urban Tree Connection**.

The tree nursery sprouted in late 1993, when Skip learned about a group of **The Crefeld School** students looking for a community service project. "We cleared that lot and they set up the nursery," Skip said. "They were into it so much that they asked if they could do more work in different locations."

Skip, a landscape architect, designed the Urban Tree Connection to engage students in projects that develop environmental awareness, job skills and community service.

For example, Crefeld students partnered with students with special needs in a unique planting project. "We had an assembly line where they helped each other mix soil, put it in pots, and plant bare-root saplings," Skip said. "The Crefeld kids became mentors."

The Urban Tree Connection also extends practical education to Germantown and Overbrook High School students. This year six Germantown students who've participated in an after-school gardening and tree care program will work at the Awbury Arboretum.

In Wynnefield, five to 15 Overbrook High students meet every Tuesday to plant trees, survey properties for landscaping, and do outdoor maintenance work. Some projects are volunteer; other jobs bring paychecks.

Initiating students into community service around the environment and networking to find them jobs links schools, neighborhood associations, and businesses. In Wynnefield the program is a successful "kid-based business" that Channel 17 hired to maintain its property, Skip said. "We're looking for jobs for these students, especially summer employment like maintaining gardens. And we need equipment."

In January, Skip, **Brenda McCleary**, and **Tom Hudson** supervised six students clearing leaves from the War Memorial at Woodbine Avenue and 54th Street. "These dedicated workers are learning to get things organized as a group and to understand the importance of the environment," Skip said.

"Our project is the urban tree," explained Brenda McCleary, teacher with the **Cities and Schools Charter**. Since beginning last October, students have planted 27 trees at Germantown High, 36 trees at Overbrook High and started a tree inventory. *(Continued on page 5)*

Four Parks Celebrate Arbor Month 1995

This year **Arbor Month** will involve children celebrating trees, open space and the renewal of four neighborhood parks. **Vernon Park** in Germantown, **Marion Anderson Recreation Center** and **Wharton Square** in South Philadelphia, and **Norris Square** in North Philadelphia are part of a three-year **Park Revitalization project** funded by the **William Penn Foundation**. The **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** and **Philadelphia's Department of Recreation** are working with interested neighbors to make these parks more family-friendly.

Public and parochial school children are preparing by studying trees, playing 'Environmental Jeopardy' and participating in an urban trees poster exhibit called 'Trees in the Hood.'

At the celebrations, children will plant and mulch trees, do park clean-up, have scavenger hunts, participate in the **Fairmount Park Rangers'** portable park program and more. They will leave with new park memories and the seeds of commitment to their neighborhood's health.

To volunteer at an Arbor Day event, please call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Branching Out: West Philadelphia

On the 4800 block of Cedar Aveneue, Tree Tender Andrew Lenton checked to see that the bare-root maple was straight before neighbors and Philadelphia Green's Mindy Maslin filled the tree pit. Another maple and an ash also were planted.

John Weisel hauled water while Tree Tenders, gardeners and neighbors shoveled a compost and soil mixture to anchor one of four bare-root trees planted at the Warrington Community Garden.

Cross Baltimore and Spruce Hill Cooperate to Rejuvenate West Philadelphia's Urban Forest

Taking advantage of a mild Saturday in early December, **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders**, neighbors, and Warrington gardeners planted 21 bare-root saplings. *(See **Bare-Root Basics**, July 1994 Treebune.)*

With **Johanna Fine's** house as a staging area, volunteers picked up 'Patmore' ash, serviceberry, tree lilac, and heat tolerant sugar maple trees before most of us had our morning coffee. The trees were purchased with a family memorial grant received last spring, porch sale earnings and a Philadelphia Green contribution. Johanna and **Angie Coughlin** pruned the fragile roots, then hosed them down before wrapping in wet paper towels.

Cross Baltimore has set a brisk pace for tree planting in West Philadelphia. During the last three years, **Cross Baltimore Tree Association** volunteers and their neighbors have planted 181 new trees from Spruce Street to Kingsessing Avenue, 46th to 52nd streets. In 1994, they placed 82 new trees in their neighborhood, replanted 19 saplings that failed, and received 29 trees through cooperating with other projects. They chose 26 tree species, 13 of which are native. Last year they also arranged to have six dead trees removed and involved 10 new blocks and 30 new volunteers in planting and maintenance.

Spruce Hill Tree Tenders Charlotte Elsner and **Amanda Benner** joined Cross Baltimore's bare-root project to learn the basics for their neighborhood planting this spring. "As neighboring communities, we are grouping our resources, trying to work together more," Amanda explained.

This spring the **Spruce Hill Street Tree Committee** will plant 20 bare-root trees and remove as many dead trees as possible, thanks to a $2,250 special grant from the **Community and Urban Forestry Council**. They also intend to hold a Pit Enlargement Workshop as a pilot program.

They'll continue to honor 23 reservations from their $40 rebate program begun in 1993 to encourage street tree planting or dead tree removal. So far, three trees have been planted and four removed through rebates in the area from 40th to 46th streets and Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

To encourage mutual support, Cross Baltimore and Spruce Hill Tree Tenders invited **Gus Jardel, Fairmount Park Arborist**, to an organizational meeting earlier this year. After hearing their concern about a dead tree in a dangerous location, Gus inspected the tree then authorized prompt removal.

Queen Lane and Society Hill

Queen Lane Has A High Reach

Pruning in a neighborhood enhanced by long-lived trees branching at 10 feet above the ground is the challenge for the **Friends of Queen Lane Station.**

"I think the big, old trees are part of the charm of Germantown," **Nanci Harmon** said. "We've got some great street trees that provide ambiance, shade, cooling in summer - a country feeling. The problem is that the big, old trees need to be professionally pruned." The group would like to explore grants or aid that would offset professional maintenance costs and encourage neighbors to care for their trees.

To make the Queen Lane train station more attractive and safe, Tree Tenders received a $5,000 **America the Beautiful** grant to buy 35 trees this spring. **SEPTA** has agreed to do the planting. Tree Tenders will include youngsters from the **Wissahickon Boys and Girls Club** and local schools in follow-up tree care.

At the Queen Lane station, Nanci Harmon sawed with a pole pruner while Bonnie Andrews and Peggy VanMeter directed. Harold Wells and Mindy Maslin discussed landscape plans.

Society Hill Saves Monday Night For Trees

Last summer Jean Bodine pulled weeds, Cherry Bombeck cultivated the tree pit, and Hans Bombeck pruned broken branches during their Monday evening tree care routine in Society Hill.

Being a visible, approachable community presence is **Society Hill Tree Tenders**' most powerful resource.

Pulling a wagon filled with tree maintenance tools, **Jean Bodine, Cherry Bombeck**, and **Hans Bombeck** turned the corner at Spruce and Sixth Streets last summer.

"This pit and that tree could use a little help," Hans said, nodding at the low-hanging, broken branches. They rang the homeowner's doorbell hoping for permission to work, then slipped a green Tree Tenders' flyer in the mailbox slot.

Getting a neighbor's okay to do tree care is important in Society Hill, Jean said. "We've got to be careful before we do anything because some people don't want their trees touched. And it's public relations. It's just so much better to leave a leaflet and take the time to explain before we do tree care."

"Educating the public is part of the task," seconded Hans, moving on to remove a deteriorated tree wrapping that sheltered a family of bugs.

Almost every Monday evening during good weather, five to seven **Society Hill Civic Association Tree Tenders** tour the neighborhood in the name of tree care. They do hands-on work and schmooz with residents about the benefits of healthy street trees.

"We're getting there but it's constant," Jean said. "It's not the kind of project that ever ends. I think we've achieved a noticeable impact this spring." Last year they were instrumental in planting 65 trees and conducting a tree inventory that included education about the value of trees.

"We've clearly got to get people involved on every block," Cherry emphasized. "We can't keep up in an area with nearly 1,000 trees." Self-described nature lovers and frustrated city gardeners, she and Hans find wearing Tree Tenders' T-shirts tends to elicit a warm reception from neighbors - especially those reluctant to allow street tree care.

North Philadelphia

Northern Liberties At Work

In Northern Liberties, Roy Goodman with Tree Tenders Karl Olsen and Sara Olsen cleared weeds from an overgrown tree pit after they'd pruned branches and suckers.

Maintenance kept **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders** pruning and weeding through 1994. Planting 65 street trees (flowering and foliage, short and tall varieties) in tree pits cut by the **Philadelphia Green** crew is this year's priority.

Carrying loppers, clippers, broom, and pruning saw in a trash barrel, **Sara Olsen**, **Karl Olsen**, **Jeanne Thomas**, **Roy Goodman**, **Alex Mikuliak**, and **Sally McCabe** found many summer evenings of work in their stand of urban forest from Spring Garden Street to Girard Avenue, Front to Sixth streets.

They clipped and pruned low branches on Kwanzan cherries, bent and broken from parked cars and vandalism. They snipped suckers sapping nutrients from thirsty new saplings. And they encouraged neighbors to water young, bare-root whips.

Despite all the work that needed to be done on so many blocks, the volunteers were enchanted by the healthy, green canopy on Fifth Street. "Linden's the tree of choice for this neighborhood," Karl exclaimed. "Look at that tree, a beautiful conical shape. For some reason, they are so great in the city."

John Moffet School Benefits From AB Grant to South Kensington

John Moffet School earth science students dig in to help plant one of eight trees purchased through an America the Beautiful grant secured by Tree Tender Tom Lederer.

Tom Lederer's dream of a nature trail of native trees in South Kensington is one step closer to reality.

Just in time for Christmas, Tom joined **John Moffet School students** and science teachers for the long-awaited planting of 11 trees in the schoolyard.

In the nursery are a flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), blue dogwood (Cornus *hernifolia*), red oak (*Quercus rubrum*), bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), sweet birch (*Betula lenta*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sweet gum(*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and American linden (*Tilia americana*).

Tom and school science coordinator **Carol Smythe** worked for almost a year after receiving the **America the Beautiful** grant to coordinate school support for the planting. Young earth science students will care for the new trees just as they've cultivated saplings in a raised-bed tree lab outside the school.

Also on hand were **Fairmount Park's Walt Stankus**, **Penn State Urban Gardening Adviser H.R. Draper 3rd**, and the **Townscape Landscapes** crew. **Fairmount Park Executive Director William Mifflin** and **Director of Operations James Donaghy** expedited the project.

Wynnefield and Germantown

The Urban Tree Connection (*Continued from page 1*)

Skip Wiener and Tom Hudson of the Urban Tree Connection supervise Overbrook High School students sprucing up the War Memorial at Woodbine Avenue and 54th Street.

"We're trying to get these students interested in doing something educational that can help them with their future work," added Tom Hudson, Assistant Supervisor of Community Service, Urban Tree Connection. The students combine work with study. For example, they surveyed and developed a landscape plan for the Samuel Gompers Elementary School which they will install. Through the Urban Tree Connection, they've also been hired to landscape a Germantown Avenue redevelopment project.

"The guys enjoy doing community service," Skip emphasized. "Our purpose is to try to do both community service and for-fee work. The more for-fee work we get, the more community service we can do. This summer through PhilaJob, we'll have a Germantown crew and a Wynnefield crew, so we can work in those areas."

For more information, phone Skip at 877-7203.

Celebrate Arbor Day, Friday, April 28

See 'Post This' Page for Arbor Month Activities

Outstanding Fundraising

Tree Tenders have been very successful raising money for tree planting and care in their communities. They've written winning proposals for America the Beautiful (AB) and Small Business Association (SBA) grants. And they've tapped creative sources such as local Walking Around Money, community associations, and porch sales. Congratulations to everyone who's contributed to Tree Tenders raising $77,250 in greening money that Philadelphia wouldn't have otherwise.

Keep up the good work!

Mindy Maslin

Accolades to:

GROUP	AB	SBA	OTHER
Gaskill/Bainbridge			$4000
Penn Knox	$2000		$250
Cross Baltimore			$2000
Henry School	$5000		
Larsage Neighbors	$2000		
Collinswood	$9000		$7000
Kensington	$5000	$5000	$5500
Wissahickon	$4400	$2600	
Whitehall		$3500	
Northern Liberties	$3000		$2000
Wash. Square West	$4800		
Queen Lane Station	$5000		
Spruce Hill	$2200		$3000
Total $77,250	**$29,000**	**$18,400**	**$29,850**

Arboreal Musings

If Only Trees Could Talk

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

In 1876, scores of trees were planted especially for the country's centennial celebration in Philadelphia. Many still grow in West Fairmount Park, north of Memorial Hall near the Japanese House and the Horticultural Center.

The 100-year anniversary included what was probably the biggest world's fair ever in the United States. A quarter of the United States population, about 10 million people, attended the city's festivities.

The planting area, now called the Fairmount Park Centennial Arboretum, covers some 17 acres and has about 150 different species of trees, from evergreens to deciduous.

We've tried to keep as much of the original site as possible. Gauging from the old pictures, at least 1,000 trees were in the area that's now fenced.

The sloped, naturalized woodland was once a valley where a Frenchman planted an oak tree of every species he could find. Every now and then a sharp eye might spot a rarity such as a swamp oak but most are gone.

Although we've lost the records for the centennial plantings, we can tell from girth and height that many trees were planted around 1876.

Back in the old days every tree in the park was tagged with a number that park staff used to keep track of tree maintenance. Some numbers are still visible. Today, manpower and equipment shortages make it very difficult to maintain and care for everything we have, much less tag and record every tree. I'd like to see some tracking method used again.

Located beyond Montgomery Drive along North Horticultural Drive, the Fairmount Park Centennial Arboretum is open to the public seven days a week, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., except holidays.

Some of the 1876 Centennial trees:

Inside the main gate, Number 415 is a Bartram oak (*Quercus heterophylla*) that John Bartram developed from a red oak and a willow oak. About 80 feet tall with a 60-foot spread, it's an impressive specimen.

Near the bronze statue of Johann Wolfgang vonGoethe stands a turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), a rare tree from Europe, which is a pretty big grower even though the top was blown out in a storm several years ago.

In nature a lot of trees get damaged and they heal themselves. Every tree has some degree of dead in it; none have all live wood. When damage occurs, the best thing we can do is prune the diseased and dying branches, take it back to a healthy branch, and let nature take its course.

Up the knoll a beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), a very slow grower about five to six feet in diameter, is really a couple of trees grafted together. Beeches are probably the only trees in nature that self-graft.

The Empress or Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*), across from the war memorial, probably was planted as a gift from a government.

The nearby scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*) at the memorial was dedicated to World War II veterans.

If I had the opportunity, I'd enjoy a trip back in time to the 1876 Centennial, not only to see the grounds and new trees. I'd like to meet the people who came here.

I often walk through the arboretum and think of how it once was.

Oh, if only trees could talk.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Q & A

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Dear Hal,
The garbage trucks rip hunks from the tree trunks. Many of the trees have deep gashes and old wounds that never get a chance to heal. The drivers are usually bigger and louder than I am. What can a tree lover do?

Dear Tree Lover,

Give hugs and invite them in for hot cocoa?

Actually this is a problem that hasn't been easily solved. I've seen only one "tree bumper" made out of a tire. It lasted for about six months before it too fell victim to the steely strength of a sanitation vessel.

Perhaps you and your neighbors could help the process by centralizing the pick-up spot so that trucks won't have to navigate such narrow straits. I suspect the best strategy is going to be communication between neighbors and collectors. Raise their awareness by handing out potted saplings and educational materials.

My neighbors complain about tree roots ruining their plumbing and cracking the sidewalk. How can I argue with that?

You can't. In much of the urban forest, constraints on roots, trunk and branches are a reality.

This is complicated by a city's infrastructure, including sewer pipes, curbs and sidewalks, that has seen better days.

Throw in a tree that has been growing happily for the past fifty-plus years, and the result is heaving sidewalks and sluggish drains.

For recent and pending plantings, remember:

Cut large tree pits (three feet by five feet or four feet by six feet). Plant the right tree for the site. Water the tree deeply and regularly. In the final analysis, the urban forest creates jobs not only for arborists, but also for plumbers, roto-rooter technicians, and cement contractors.

Our neighborhood group hired a well-recommended landscaper to plant street trees, but we were very disappointed in the work. The pits were small, and the trees appeared scrawny and beat-up. How can we find someone to do the job right?

The first thing that comes to mind is to use your Tree Tender Network. In horticulture, the best recommendations come by word-of-mouth and many Tree Tenders have companies whom they've come to trust. Find out what companies have worked in a particular neighborhood and go inspect their job.

Also, get a hold of some street tree planting specifications and adopt them for your community's use. In Philadelphia, Fairmount Park Commission regulations govern street tree planting, so ask your arborist for information. Well-written planting specs will state clearly things such as pit size, tree size, and length of guarantee. Discuss the details with a perspective contractor so everyone knows what's expected.

Tree Tenders Act from Passion Rather Than Pragmatism

A volunteer's desire to help the urban forest stems from a feeling that trees are an "important presence" rather than tree's tangible benefits, according to Lynne M. Westphal, Social Scientist, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service. In her recent study of TreeKeepers in Chicago's Openlands Project, Westphal found that volunteers hold "deep values... primarily aesthetic, emotional or spiritual" values for the urban forest above the utilitarian benefits of cleaning the air, cooling, increasing property values.

Also, the "level of caring for trees exhibited by TreeKeepers signifies the pivotal role of trees in creating community.... Interaction with trees helps to provide a sense of place in the cycle of nature and life, and helps to form bonds between people and place," Westphal continued. Deep caring "motiviates volunteers to withstand freezing January winds to mulch park trees. This passion is a powerful motivator...Volunteering also produces tangible results toward helping the environment," she wrote.

As one volunteer expressed it: "Planting and maintaining trees is a possible way to heal the earth."

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
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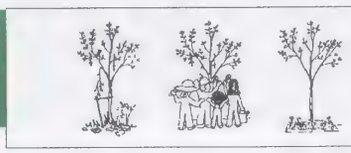
Funding: **The William Penn Foundation.**
Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut St., Phila, PA 19106.
Deadline for submissions to the June issue is May 1. Printed on recycled paper.

Post This who, what, when, where



ARBOR MONTH CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, April 12 & 13 11:00 a.m & 2:00 p.m.	**Arbor Day Program** for youngsters under seven years of age Please Touch Museum, 210 N. 21st Street
Wednesday, April 19 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	**Arbor Day Festival** Vernon Park, 5800 Germantown Avenue
Thursday, April 20	Rain date for Vernon Park Arbor Day Festival
Tuesday, April 25 9:30-11:30 a.m.	**Arbor Day Festival** Marion Anderson Recreation Center, 17th & Fitzwater Sts.
Wednesday, April 26 9:30-11:30 a.m.	**Arbor Day Festival** Wharton Square, 23rd & Wharton Sts.
Thursday, April 27 9:30-11:30 a.m.	**Arbor Day Festival** Norris Square, Diamond & Howard Sts.
Friday, April 28	Rain date for April 25, 26, 27 Arbor Day Festivals

TREE TENDERS' SPRING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, May 3 6:00-8:30 p.m.	**Building Your Organization** PHS, 325 Walnut St., RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280. Tree Tenders Continuing Education. All are welcome.
Sunday, June 11 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	**Tree Tenders' Pot Luck "Picnic With A Purpose"** Plus tree care workshops and a hike along the Wissahickon. Harper's Meadow, RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.
Wednesday, June 14, 21, 28 6:00-9:00 p.m.	**New Tree Tenders Training** PHS, 325 Walnut St., RSVP to Mindy Maslin at 625-8280. All are welcome.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

PhiladelphiaTreebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

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Children Celebrate Arbor Month 1995

photo: Ira Beckoff

Arbor Month featured Philadelphia Green-sponsored educational and fun activities for youth in city parks participating in the Park Revitalization project. In Wharton Square, delighted children watched as Mother Nature, portrayed by a Please Touch Museum staff member, enlisted their help to care for planet Earth.

April was a whirlwind of Arbor Month celebrations. A record number of lively children and their teachers enjoyed diverse tree programs in neighborhood parks.

More than 1,400 students joined community and park volunteers for environmental fun and education in **Vernon Park** in Germantown, **Marian Anderson Recreation Center** and **Wharton Square** in South Philadelphia, and **Norris Square** in North Philadelphia. The programs were part of **Philadelphia Green**'s (**PG**) **Parks Revitalization Project**.

This year PG organized a variety of activity stations where children tried their hands at mulching, papermaking, planting, and more. PG staffers and dozens of volunteers guided the youngsters from one learning activity to the next.

"In a broad way, the interactive stations are a way to build stewardship for open space and trees in our environment," noted **Maitreyi Roy**, PG's Project Manager for the **Parks Revitalization Project**. "The children learn how precious these resources are in the city."

(Continued on the center spread.)

Arbor Day Honors

The **National Arbor Day Foundation** honored the Society's **Philadelphia Green** with a Project Award, noting the organization's dedication to improving the urban landscape through planting projects and educational programs.

Mindy Maslin accepted the award at a ceremony on April 29 in Nebraska City, the home of Arbor Day.

First observed on April 10, 1872, Arbor Day was designated as "sacred for tree planting," according to a Nebraska resolution proposed by former governor J. Sterling Morton. Morton intended that the trees serve as windbreaks and conserve moisture in the soil. The resident who planted the most trees was awarded "a farm library of $25 worth of books." The Agricultural Society of the Nebraska county "which shall plant properly the largest number of trees" received a $100 premium.

We now observe the holiday on the last Friday in April.

Mindy Maslin accepted The National Arbor Day Foundation 's Project Award to Philadelphia Green from John Rosenow, The National Arbor Day Foundation president, and Mary Yager, program services director.

Tree Tenders Spring

Spruce Hill Plants

In late March, **Spruce Hill Tree Tenders Amanda Benner** and **Lauren Leatherbarrow** held their first community bare-root tree planting. On a sunny Saturday morning, neighbors selected from 20 trees purchased by a $2,250 **America The Beautiful** grant from the **Pennsylvania Community and Urban Forestry Council.**

Lauren, Amanda, and neighboring **Cross Baltimore** veterans **Johanna Fines** and **Angie Coughlan** distributed and helped plant the fragile whips whose roots must be kept cool and moist. They also explained proper planting technique.

Because bare-root saplings are small caliper, Tree Tenders got special planting permission from **Fairmount Park District Arborist Gus Jardel**.

photo: Charlotte Kidd

Spruce Hill Tree Tender Amanda Benner anchored the Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk' sapling while Johanna Fines of Cross Baltimore and new tree owner Esther Lewis backfilled the pit.

photo: Charlotte Kidd

Tree Tenders in Powelton Village celebrated a hands-on Earth Day. Powelton Village Tree Committee members José Almiñana, Phil Kane, Joe Kuna, Marilynn Taylor, and Jim Hammerman with daughters Rose and Stephanie prepared to paint bollards installed to protect trees.

Powelton Village Paints

Earth Day was a work day for the **Powelton Village Tree Committee**. Walking west on Baring Street, **Marilynn Taylor**, **Phil Kane**, **Jim Hammerman**, **José Almiñana**, and **Joe Kuna** compared notes about trees planted last fall. Residents had purchased 24 balled-and-burlapped sugar maples, oaks, basswoods, black locusts, yellowwoods, and london planes.Tree and planting costs were reimbursed partially through a $12,000 **Small Business Association** grant.

Tree maintenance began on Hamilton Street as Phil hoed mulch from trunk flares and removed paper wrappings. Concentrating on the hefty steel bollards edging the tree pits, Marilynn primed the metal. "We want to take our time planting trees properly with bollards to protect them," she said. "Statistics indicate many street trees are lost to bark damage from cars."

Joe, Jim and his daughters painted the bollards.

"These trees are really in a hostile environment," said José, who designed the bollards. "So we do everything we can to make them stronger in their younger years."

Last year, each property owner requesting a tree contributed $500; a large portion was returned after all bills were paid. "In essence, after paying the contractors with SBA money, we reimbursed the owners more than half the cost of the tree and put aside some seed money for future grants. It was a very economical way for the homeowner to own a tree," José said. Two bollards added $150 to planting costs.

As the afternoon progressed, the group reconvened to discuss the next step. Noting overall tree pit conditions, Marilynn said, "We need to remind homeowners to water their trees."

For the next work party, Joe suggested, "We should notify these folks and they could join us in painting their bollards...When we began the tree project, people were very skeptical. Then they saw the quality of the trees. Now they're contacting us."

Into Action

Northern Liberties Greens

Residents of Northern Liberties had their hands and trucks full with 31 huge balled-and-burlapped trees ready to plant on May 13. The delivery truck rolled in at 8:30 a.m. By 10:30, neighbors had picked up their trees and begun planting.

Although balled-and-burlapped trees can be expensive, recipients paid a bargain $50 per tree. The project was subsidized largely through fundraising by the **Northern Liberties Neighborhood Tree Committee**, explained committee members **Sara Olsen** and **Sally McCabe**. The committee secured a $3,000 **America The Beautiful** grant. And thanks to **State Representative Marie Lederer**, the group also received a State Legislative Initiative Grant for street tree beautification.

photo: Charlotte Kidd

Planting organizers Sara Olsen and Sally McCabe supervised delivery and distribution of 31 trees to Northern Liberties residents in mid-May.

photo: Charlotte Kidd

photo: Charlotte Kidd

At Queen Lane Station, students and teacher Diane Witte from the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf planted marigolds under a sugar maple they pledged to water and cultivate. Tree Tender Bonnie Andrews hung an Adopt-A-Tree sign that includes the school's name.

Queen Lane Involves Students

In their first work as urban forest stewards, students near the Queen Lane SEPTA Station planted annuals under saplings they adopted in late April. The **Friends of Queen Lane** in Germantown created the Adopt-A-Tree program to enhance the landscape and cultivate a sense of community.

Tree Tender Bonnie Andrews wrote the winning grant that fueled the effort - a $5,000 **America The Beautiful** bequest to purchase 35 trees planted by the **Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority**. And **Jakki Browner** of the Friends organized the **Adopt-A-Tree** day. About 50 students from **Germantown Friends**, **John B. Kelly**, **Mitchell Academy**, **Penn Charter**, and **Pennsylvania School for the Deaf** participated.

Jakki said, "It gives me a good feeling to see the partnership with **SEPTA**, the community, the **Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Council**, and now the schools."

photo: Charlotte Kidd

Penn Charter teacher Jeannette Burtnett handed her students worms to enrich a tree pit. Students selected to adopt five Japanese dogwoods were top 'worm' sellers to benefit the Nature Conservancy's Children's Rain Forest.

April In The Parks

photo: Charlotte Kidd

Recycling household plastic and paper was a hit with youngsters in Vernon Park who joined Renna Komisar at her 'Trash to Treasure' station.

photo: Ira Beckoff

Seeds and feathers! Trees are home to amazing resources. Creative fingers fashioned the bounty into imaginative masks.

photo: Ira Beckoff

What lives in or grows on trees? Squirrels, birds, fruit, insects... Students kept Joe St. Marie busy twisting colorful balloons into branches, apples, blossoms, nuts, and more.

Arbor Month 1995

Park and community volunteers brought unique ideas and boundless energy to Arbor Month activities. We appreciate those who helped make the events so exciting and successful. If you'd like to volunteer at the parks, call Maitreyi Roy at 625-8280.

Our special thanks to:

Philadelphia's Department of Recreation staff who helped direct activity stations and provided the sound system.

Fairmount Park Rangers who explored the forest with their Portable Park Discovery Box.

Bookworms staff who assisted at stations.

Skip Wiener who taught youngsters how to plant seedlings.

Center in the Park seniors in **Vernon Park** who guided students through the newly sodded exercise course.

photo: Ira Beckoff

Children in the park were fascinated with the art of papermaking using recycled newspapers, thanks to artist Denise Klose.

In **Wharton Square**, **Please Touch Museum** entertainers performed a tale about Mother Nature
The **Friends of the Wissahickon** ran stations and cleaned up the the park.
In **Norris Square**, **Senior Center** members helped youngsters craft seed and feather masks.
Norris Square Neighborhood Project volunteers ran the Scavenger Hunt and the Medicine Wheel, and held the closing ceremony.

photo: Ira Beckoff

In Norris Square and other parks, mulching trees with wood chips and pushing the wheelbarrow were favorite activities.

Youngsters in Wharton Square sharpened their understanding of trees in the environment during a round of Environmental Jeopardy led by Philadelphia Green's Jeff Myers.

photo: Ira Beckoff

photo: Ira Beckoff

At Marian Anderson Recreation Center, Fairmount Park Rangers used the Portable Park program to demonstrate the importance of trees.

Arboreal Musings

Our Stand Of Street Trees

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

The Street Tree Arboretum at the northeast corner of Belmont Avenue and North Concourse Drive is an innovative idea initiated by Jim Donaghy, Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) Director of Operations and Landscape Management, and implemented by Pat Crossan, FPC district manager.

Princeton Nursery donated the 36 trees in 1992. The FPC has since purchased and planted another 20 cultivars Pat chose for small size and disease resistance.

Many specimens are seven to nine years old. They show the public the kinds of trees that can be planted on the streets. The site is also a test plot that gives us an opportunity to see how specific trees handle urban stresses over time.

Every tree was tagged with an identification label, but kids pull off the tags every now and then. So Tree Tenders who'd like detailed information can contact me at 685-0107.

We mulch and try to keep the trees well protected with wire tree guards that serve two purposes. We have a very serious disease out here called 'mower blight' which happens when a mower gets too close and hits a tree. The guards protect the trunks from being gouged. They also discourage rodents from chewing at the bark during winter.

Pat has observed that regardless of species and cultivar, big saplings planted in large pits do best. Small whips planted in small pits have a difficult time getting established.

We no longer recommend planting some trees grown here, like the Norway maple which is invasive. The flowering cherries like 'Kwanzan' have too many insect and disease problems to thrive in the city.

Other trees have done very well in our urban environment. The dawn-redwood, with red-brown bark, is a deciduous evergreen related to the California redwood. It's a cone-bearing tree, on the order of a larch, that drops its leaves. We plant them on Roosevelt Boulevard.

I like the broad, columnar shape and nice green color of American linden trees. Except for aphids, they have few insect or disease problems.

The Japanese lilac, *Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk*,' is trained to grow as a tree rather than a shrub. The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society uses the cultivar in its street tree program. More broad than tall, it can be planted under wires. With glossy bark and leaves, it almost looks like a cherry tree. The blossoms can be red or white or purple. Our specimen is eight or nine years old. Mature specimens grow on the west side of the Rodin Museum.

The red maples have beautiful smooth gray bark, small red flowers, and nice shape. *Acer rubrum* is a good street tree that grows well in this part of the country and is easy to transplant.

We have several 'Delaware Valley' elms, a species that's resistant to Dutch Elm disease. The American elm was decimated by Dutch Elm disease. Before we introduce the cultivar on the street, we'll keep it here for a few years to see what it looks like and what problems develop.

Overall, *Zelkovas* have proven to be superior street trees. The cultivar *Zelkova 'Green Vase'* was supposed to replace the elm. Introduced from the Far East, it's very hardy and has nice form, but it hasn't become popular.

Our sawtooth oak, *Quercus acutissima*, has a substantial canker - a common problem for many trees. The gray-brown bark has deep, whitish fissures; the leaves are narrow, oblong. It holds up well here but grows a little better in the South. There's a planting at 16th and John F. Kennedy Boulevard by the Bell Telephone building.

At 15 to 20 feet tall, the Trident maple is good under wires and along narrow streets. The new theory is to plant big trees on small streets. The mature canopies will extend over the rooftops and keep the buildings cooler naturally. The concept sounds good but maintenance and storm damage are considerations. Air conditioning costs may be reduced but there are maintenance costs associated with cleaning drains and removing broken branches.

Explore our arboretum when you think about planting a street tree.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Choosing the Right Cultivar

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

In the horticultural universe, everyone has an opinion when it comes to species selection. Amateur or professional, we all have our favorite "can't miss" tree or shrub that will solve absolutely a particular site requirement.

Lively debate about choosing a street tree species tends to go like this: "Ugh, those pods!" "Is it native to Pennsylvania?" "Spiney balls!" "Fetid fruit!" "Phooey, an exotic!" Admittedly, not too scientific.

There are further considerations. How tall is it at maturity? How wide? Deep-rooted or shallow? What are its growth rate and branching habit? Is it prone to scurfy scale, slime flux, or thrips?

John Stella, sales representative at Moon Nurseries in Yardley, Pa., is a voice of reason among these wranglings. During nine years of nursery sales including extensive field time, he's acquired a solid background and understands growth characteristics. Working with commercial clients, he identifies trees that meet specific needs such as drought conditions. Then he pulls on his boots and heads to the nursery to tag the right trees for digging.

John's spent many winter days counting red maples - row after row of *'October Glory,' 'Red Sunset,'* and *'Autumn Blaze.'* In thoughtful academic fashion, he'll point out each cultivar's unique characteristics, strengths and weaknesses, why one works better than the other.

John's mission is to promote woody plants that deserve more attention and use in the landscape. Much of his work seeks to solve the "right tree/right location" challenge with an exceptional cultivar.

Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia defines a cultivar as the "progeny of a clone... the result of selective hybridization." A good street tree cultivar thrives in poor, alkaline soil. It will have a straight trunk and uniform branching habit (lateral branches equidistant and uniform in length). For example, a tree with a strong central leader, such as ash or linden, would meet a specific site requirement of a narrow residential or wide commercial strip.

Historically more than a few cultivars have become nightmares on city streets. The self-destructing 'Bradford' pear or scale-infested 'Kwanzan' cherry come to mind. Mindful of that, the nursery industry works carefully and deliberately with new introductions. The *'Princeton Sentry'* ginkgo and *'Halka'* honey locust are among the few available, successful cultivars.

John favors the *'Rocky Mountain Glow'* maple, a sub-species of sugar maple from the Southwest which actually favors dry conditions. Not only that, at maturity it's about 30 feet tall, and 15 feet wide (about the width and height of a two-story rowhouse). A beautiful and smaller alternative to the 80-foot American linden.

Come the 21st century, superior street trees that have passed scrutiny and are of size will be widely available. Many will meet John's specifications; they'll not exceed 35 feet in height or 20 feet in width for use on Philadelphia streets. John has a short list of "Tree Choices." Many are truly cutting edge. While some are nearly impossible to find, others are just reaching the market.

John Stella's Tree Choices

1. *Acer saccharum 'Steeples'*
2. *Acer saccharum 'Goldspire'*
3. *Acer saccharum 'Legacy'*
4. *Acer grandidentatum 'Schmidt'*
5. *Acer platanoides 'Easy Street'*
6. *Acer platanoides 'Crimson Sentry'*
7. *Acer rubrum 'Bowhall'*
8. *Acer x Freemani 'Scarlet Sentinel'*
9. *Acer truncatum 'Pacific Sunset'*
10. *Celtis occidentalis 'Magnifica'*
11. *Fraxinus penn. 'Summit'*
12. *Quercus robur 'Skyrocket'*
13. *Quercus frainetto 'Forrest Green'*
14. *Sophora japonica 'Princeton Upright'*
15. *Tilia cordata 'Corinthian'*
16. *Tilia tomentosum 'Green Mountain'*
17. *Ulmus parvifolia 'Allee'*
18. *Ulmus parvifolia 'Athena'*
19. *Zelkova serratta 'Green Vase'*

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Post This who, what, when, where

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS For information about these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Wednesday, Aug. 30	**Municipal Tree Restoration Workshops** Met-Ed Building, Reading, Pa.
Sept. 12 to 16	**Seventh Annual National Urban Forest Conference** **"Inside Urban Ecosystems,"** New York, New York
Oct. 12 & 13	**Penn State Urban Forestry Workshop** State College, Pa.
Thursdays, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 6:00-9:00 p.m.	**Tree Tender Training** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to MIndy Maslin

Hot Weather Tree Care Tips

1. Water long and deeply.

Depending on soil dryness, allow water to trickle slowly from a hose into tree pit for a half-hour to several hours to provide at least an inch of water. Or slowly pour 15-20 gallons of water at tree base every week.

2. Refresh mulch in tree pits.

3. Loosen guide wires.

4. In dry weather, don't fertilize.

Insufficient water can doom any newly planted tree. Bare-root trees are especially fragile. Newly planted balled-and-burlapped saplings need extra care. In drought conditions, mature trees suffer too.

Water bare-root trees daily for the first few months after planting. Throughout the summer, water bare-root and new balled-and burlapped saplings thoroughly twice weekly or as needed.

In a dry spell, keep an eye on all trees. Watch the leaves. When a tree can't draw enough water to replace moisture lost through transpiration, it will shut down and its leaves will wilt. If it continues to dehydrate, the tree will shed its leaves and go into premature dormancy to preserve what little moisture is left in twigs and branches. Repeated long, deep waterings may revive it.

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325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

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Philadelphia Treebune

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Young Environmental Campers Take a New Look at Old Friends

By Mindy Maslin

"We are saving the trees!" shouted an 11-year-old enjoying an afternoon of activities at **Ferko Recreation Center's Environmental Camp**.

She was one of more than 200 young day campers around the city who learned tree appreciation as part of Philadelphia's **Department of Recreation's Summer Environmental Camp** program.

Nine city recreation centers and two neighborhoods participated in programs designed with assistance from the **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**, **The Urban Tree Connection**, **Community Resources of Baltimore**, and **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green.**

The environmental agenda: to increase children's environmental awareness and stewardship in their neighborhoods through activities about urban wildlife, watershed protection, and neighborhood beautification.

Philadelphia Green sponsored **Junior Tree Tender** programs at eight environmental camps: **Awbury**, **Lonnie Young**, **Ferko**, **Simons**, **Wissinoming**, **Nelson**, **East Poplar**, and **Hancock Recreation Centers**.

During morning and afternoon workshops, **Philadelphia Green's** education specialist **Mindy Maslin** and consultant **Cindy Perkiss** encouraged children to examine park trees for urban stresses and discuss causes and remedies. Youngsters played the Maple Seed Scramble; older children enjoyed the challenge of Treemendous Feats.

photo by Charlotte Kidd

At Simon Recreation Center in Germantown, environmental campers ask Philadelphia Green's Mindy Maslin about a fungus on the conifer's needles.

Tree appreciation is not a new concept for some children. At Wissinoming Park, environmental camp director (and Tree Tender) **Mike Neafsey** and assistant **Carol Ann Taylor** foster tree awareness and appreciation in the neighborhood with deeds as well as words.

One child, crowded by another youngster, demonstrated his environmental vocabulary.

"Get out of my way, you Global Warmer," he insisted.

At **Nelson Recreation Center**, director **Anthony Washington**, environmental camp director **Delmar Allen,** and assistant **Rubin Rogers** had each well-informed camper adopt a tree. Asked which tree types were her favorites, one 11-year-old girl replied, "Weeping willow and horse chestnut," without thinking twice.

Congratulations to all the new, young Tree Huggers and Earth Stewards out there!

This fall in Philadelphia schools, Philadelphia Green is offering environmental tree programs. If you'd like your school to participate and you have an active Tree Tender group and an interested teacher, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Room to Grow

photo: Charlotte Kidd

Spruce Hill Tree Tenders Hit the Pavement

Amanda Benner handles the walk-behind cement saw as it cuts the sidewalk. Lauren Leatherbarrow and Joe Shapiro watch and guide to keep the blade on the chalk lines.

Broken pieces of sidewalk heaved over thick roots of aged sycamores at 41st and Chester. And Melville Street neighbors had asked **Spruce Hill Tree Tenders Lauren Leatherbarrow** and **Amanda Benner** about expanding tree pits on their block. So the Tree Tending duo flexed their muscles in late June by demonstrating tree pit enlargement.

"It's a little bit messy and real hard work," said Amanda, whose wet shirt, shorts, and boots were flecked with bits of cement. She and **Larsage Tree Tender Joe Shapiro** took turns maneuvering the walk-behind cement saw that cut the sidewalk.

"It takes two people to run the machine: one to watch and guide the saw blade; the other to handle and guide the machine," Amanda added. "Both people should wear goggles."

Earlier that morning, she had drawn chalk lines around five mature American sycamores to enlarge meager tree pits to about 11 by 6 feet. "I tried to follow the sidewalk crack lines so we would use the saw only as necessary," Amanda said. Four hours later, she and Joe were tiring so they cut the last two pits smaller than planned.

Starting a cut is easier at a corner or a crack, Joe said. At the curb line, he fashioned a 2-by-4 shelf to balance the heavy machine.

"The cement cutter does only so much," Amanda said. "You still need manual labor to break and remove the cement pieces and debris from the pit, and load the concrete into the truck (for disposal)."

Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders Angie Coughlan and **Johanna Fines** joined the project, taking turns cracking cement slabs with the sledge hammer. Using the fulcrum and lever method, they pried concrete hunks free of roots and sidewalk.

"Concrete disposal is the bottleneck," Angie said. "Those concrete pieces are heavy to transport and few places take them." Winzinger Recycling Company, on East Allengheny Avenue off Route 95, will take clean concrete, no charge. Phone 425-4422.

The work, cement disposal, and $150 saw rental fee could be shared by several neighborhood groups coordinating weekend projects, Johanna suggested.

Meanwhile Lauren raked stones and cinders from the tree roots and shoveled in Earthmate, a mulch that Angie and Johanna had brought in buckets. Finishing the pit, she transplanted clumps of violets and strawberries from the nearby community garden.

"Roots buckling the sidewalk often cause the home owner to want to remove the tree," Lauren said. "Here's a solution that benefits the tree and smooths out the sidewalk."

The tree pit enlargement workshop was one of several Spruce Hill projects supported by a $2,300 **America The Beautiful** grant.

"This was an opportunity to test out what's involved and to learn what we need to know to teach others how to enlarge pits," Lauren added. As part of the grant, they also planted 20 bare-root trees in March and contributed to removal costs for 11 dead trees.

You Can Do It

Tree Pit Enlargement Tips

John Collins, chairman of Temple University's Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, is known for breaking new ground when it comes to tree pits. With his firm The Delta Group, he designed an environmentally attuned landscape for Philadelphia's East Market Street. The streetscape includes continuous, underground soil trenches beneath the pavement so tree roots can grow unimpeded.

John suggests the following tips for enlarging tree pits.

The Pit

- The more square footage the better. A pit at least 100 feet square is recommended for a street tree. But a 50 square-foot area is an improvement over the all too common 3-by-4 (12 sq. ft.) city pit.
- Where width is restricted by sidewalk size, for example, compensate by increasing tree pit length. For example, a pit 3 to 4 feet wide should be at least 10 to15 feet long.
- Rent a walk-behind concrete saw. Measure and mark the new tree pit perimeter. Cut along existing sidewalk score lines to make the work easier and the new pit more attractive.
- Remove gravel and concrete (usually about 4 inches).
- Excavate down about 6 inches, carefully removing debris around roots.
- Replace debris with good soil that will provide essential nutrients and improve drainage.

Resurfacing

- Techniques vary. Don't leave an enlarged tree pit unplanted and open or unsurfaced. People will walk on the soil, damaging tree roots and compacting soil. Animals will find it an inviting place to urinate.
- In neighborhoods where residents have the time and inclination to garden, plant shade-loving ground cover. Mulching the unplanted spots will keep weeds to a minimum.
- In less well-tended areas, topping the pit with brick or cobblestone is recommended. In that case, first resurface the excavation with 2 inches of sand or quarry fines (stone dust) to encourage soil aeration. Top with brick (2¼ inches) to within a foot or so of tree. Install a wooden frame of 2X4s beyond the tree to hold brick and stone in place.
- Soil or pit surface should be even with the surrounding concrete sidewalk.
- Firm brick with rubber mallet.
- In the unbricked area, mulch with organic material to within a few inches of the trunk.

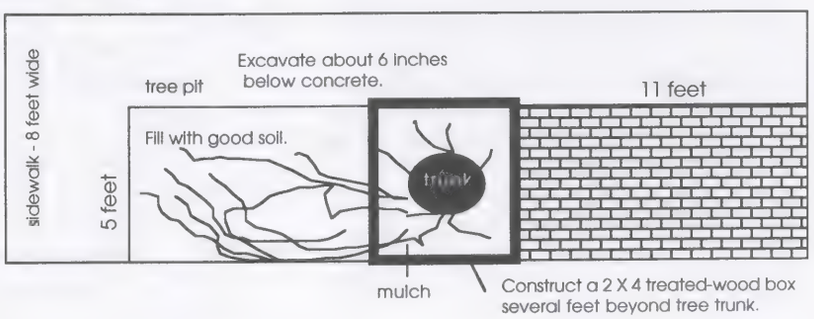
You'll need:

Goggles, heavy gloves, heavy boots
Walk-behind cement saw and blade
Pry bar (6-foot), crow bar, sledge hammer
Pick, chisel, rake, shovel, garden hose

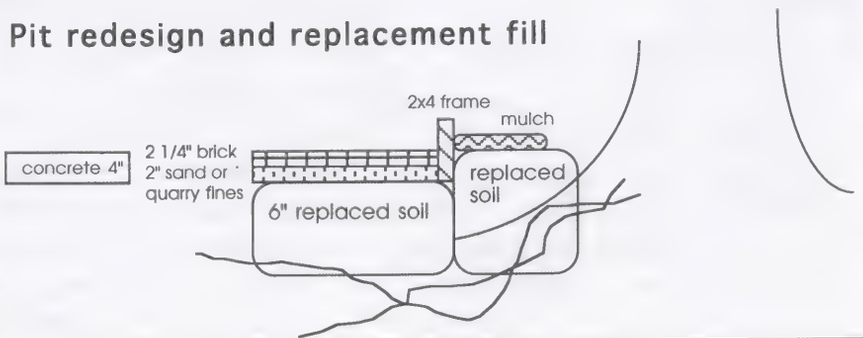
Other details:

Before you dig, call 1-800-242-1776 for utilities' locations.
Rent a walk-behind saw ($100-$150/weekend).
Arrange to dispose of concrete pieces and debris.
Locate water source for garden hose hook-up.

Overview - pit area



Pit redesign and replacement fill



Branching Out

Tree Tenders in the Philadelphia Area - Fall 1995

District One

1. **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tenders** Tom Lederer, 634-6330

District Two

2. **Beau Gardens** Mark Moncavage, 627-4218
3. **Bookworms** Arty Cholminski, 735-6168
4. **Fairmount Parents, Business, Neighbors Assoc.** Rose Marie Pasicznyk, 236-2671
5. **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Tree Tenders** Ed Grusheski, 592-4908
6. **Friends of Cianfrani Park** Roxanne Galeota, 829-0582
7. **Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders** Bob Pierson, 925-5971
8. **Kater Street** Marsha Canfield, 592-1614
9. **Norris Square** Iris Brown, 634-2227
10. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders** Sara & Karl Olsen, 922-6732
11. **Passyunk Tree Tenders** Andrea Krupp, 463-8215
12. **Sixteen Hundred Block, Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders** Bill Jenkins, 765-8484
13. **Society Hill Civic Association** Jean Bodine, 627-8393
14. **South Philadelphia Tree Tenders** Anna Maria Vona, 336-3154
15. **Urban Gardeners** Maureen O'Hara, 560-4167
16. **Urban Landscaping Club** Brooke Coldiron, 574-1473
17. **Washington Square West** Virginia Trosino, 625-2599

District Three

18. **Bluebell Hill Tree Tenders** Bruce Trumper, 849-7669
19. **Coulter Street Meeting** Rebecca Schneider, 438-3012
20. **C.W. Henry School** Steve Donegan, 232-5459
21. **Duval Improvement Association Tree Tenders** Madeline McGee, 848-0565
22. **Friends of East Park** Anthony Langford, 763-9896
23. **Friends of Queen Lane Station** Nanci Harmon, 848-2854
24. **Neighborhood Economic Development Program** JoAnn Monte, 978-5930
25. **Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders** Rebekah Ray, 844-7596
26. **West Catholic High School Tree Tenders** Monica Brady, 365-6997
27. **Wissahickon Stewardship Program** Jason Lubar, 242-2059
28. **Wissahickon Tree Tenders** John Boyce, 482-1837

District Four

29. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders** Angie Coghlan, 729-6273
30. **Habitat For Humanity** Frank Console & Sean Toner, 477-4639
31. **Larsage Neighbors** John Scott, 747-3117
32. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders** Mamie Nichols, 334-2666
33. **Powelton Village Civic Assoc.** Marilynn Taylor, 386-2240
34. **Spruce Hill Community Assoc. Tree Tenders** Lauren Leatherbarrow, 386-3905
35. **Squirrel Hill Tree Tenders** John Manotti, 898-8445
36. **Wynnefield Residents Assoc.** Skip Wiener, 877-7203

District Five

37. **Friends of Fox Chase Farm** Jim Kates, 686-2354
38. **Whitehall Tree Tenders** Carol Vanagaitis, 535-5301
39. **Wissinoming Park Advisory Council** Mike Neafsey, 535-0629

New Jersey

40. **Collingswood Horticultural Society** Gayle Reedy, 609-854-3592

Resources

Morris Arboretum 247-5777
Plant Clinic Ext. 141

Pennsylvania One-Call System
Call Before You Dig
1-800-242-1776

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Hotline 922-8043

Fairmount Park Commission

Park Manager: Walt Stankus 685-0107

District Arborists:

District One, North Phila.
Mike Helsen 685-0108

District Two, Center City &South
Rich Sunday 685-1837

District Three, Northwest Phila.
Ernie Barile 685-2577

District Four, West & Southwest
Gus Jardel (610) 352-8644

District Five, Northeast Phila.
Sarah Hoster 685-8795

Of Arboreal Interest

Tree Tenders Picnic and Learn

Kensington's **Tom Lederer** did a different kind of tending at June's Tree Tenders Pot Luck "Picnic With A Purpose" in Harper's Meadow. At the grill, he flipped burgers for 40 hungry participants.

Under a leafy canopy on a warm Sunday afternoon, the chatty group swapped stories, shared delicious food, and learned from experts. PHS intern **Cindy Perkiss** and **Sydney Ozer** of Fairmount Park helped out with picnic details.

Jason Lubar of **Friends of the Wissahickon** was on hand to talk about tree identification. **Hal Rosner** (our Sidewalk Arborist) demonstrated correct pruning techniques. **Skip Weiner** discussed growing trees in containers. **Charles Young** and **H.R. Draper of Penn State Urban Gardening** explained the ins and outs of compost making. **Sioux Baldwin** wrapped up the event with a hike in Wissahickon Park.

The day was such a success that Philadelphia Green plans to hold an annual Picnic With A Purpose.

photo by Charlotte Kidd

With son Noah assisting, arborist Hal Rosner explained why it's important to make a pruning cut at the bark ridge where the tree will grow callous over the injury.

History in the Canopies

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

Philadelphia's Fairmount Park has five historic Bicentennial trees that are 200 years old or older. To qualify as a Bicentennial tree, the specimen had to be around during the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

In 1976, the Fairmount Park Commission contracted with an arborist to find and certify these historic trees. Arborists can estimate a tree's age by using a mathematical formula. Depending on the tree species, they measure the diameter at a specific height and multiply by a designated factor. Coring into a tree will show annual rings and growing conditions but we didn't want to do that.

In Hunting Park there's a historic willow oak, *Quercus phellos,* that's seen a lot of people come and go. Its massive root flare, about seven to eight feet in diameter, is probably the growth of callous tissue that's been injured and built up over the years.

The willow oak stands about 85 to 90 feet tall; its canopy spreads about 60 feet. The tree's south side has frost cracks which occur from the sun's afternoon heat and the night's cool air. The temperature change causes the bark to expand and contract, which forms frost cracks.

On Hobson Street, we've documented a historic Japanese pagoda tree, *Sophora japonica,* that's in very good shape.

Another Bicentennial tree is an American hackberry, *Celtis occidentalis,* that grows in the Morris Park in Overbrook.

A Bicentennial red oak, *Quercus rubra,* at the Thomas Holmes Cemetery is succumbing to urban stress. Off Holmes Avenue at Academy Road, the oak has been set afire. Unfortunately, teenagers find it a favorite haunt for their beer parties.

At the Andorra Natural Area, a big white oak, Quercus *alba,* thrives in the woods.

Take a step back in time...under the canopies of our Bicentennial trees.

Where's the oldest tree in Philadelphia?

Students from grades five through eight are invited to submit entries to the Oldest Tree Contest. Winning trees will be announced during Arbor Week. For more information, contact Fairmount Park Arborist Gus Jardel at 610-352-8644.

Post This who, what, when, where

AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS For information about these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Oct. 12 & 13	**Penn State Urban Forestry Workshop** State College, Pa.
Thursdays, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 6:00-9:00 p.m.	**Tree Tender Training** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin
Thursday, Nov. 16 6:00-9:00 p.m.	**Tree Tenders' Continuing Education** Insects and Disease - An Organic Approach PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin

We'd like to hear from Tree Tenders.

If a tree has moved you to art, cartoons, poetry, reflection...
If you'd like to write about a Tree Tenders' group...
And you're interested in sharing the creation with Treebune readers,
Contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 or Charlotte Kidd at 242-8250.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
Editor: **Charlotte Kidd**, with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin and Sally McCabe.
Funding: **The William Penn Foundation.**
Send comments, stories, inquiries to:
Mindy Maslin
325 Walnut St., Phila.
PA 19106.
Deadline for January issue submissions is November 1.
Printed on recycled paper.

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325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

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Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 3 • No. 1 • January 1996

Tree Tenders Keep on Growing

By Mindy Maslin

The newest and sixth Tree Tender class was the largest so far. Last November, 62 people representing 11 groups graduated, swelling our numbers to well over 250 stewards in 46 groups.

In the last three years, the scope and training of Tree Tenders' work has changed. The most significant training shift has been to move organization-building and fundraising into the three-week training in recognition of their importance to the groups' success.

At Tree Tenders' training, old friends and teachers like **Julianne Schieffer** of **Penn State Urban Forestry** and **Hal Rosner** of **Bartlett Tree Experts, Inc.** have been joined by new friends like **Gus Jardel** and **Pat Crossan** of the **Fairmount Park Commission**, **Jason Lubar** of **Friends of the Wissahickon**, and **Caroline Friede** of **Temple University's Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Department**.

The past three years have been fruitful beyond expectation. More than 1000 trees have been planted and 6000 tended. Tree Tender groups have raised more than $101,000 for local projects and been advocates for trees in stirring ways.

For example, last year in West Philadelphia, **Cross Baltimore** and **Spruce Hill Tree Tenders** rallied at the alert of concerned neighbor **Liz Campion** to help stop indiscriminate tree removal in a Redevelopment Authority project. With Gus Jardel's help, they also developed a tree planting plan to replace street trees that were removed.

Tree Tender groups are becoming more involved with children's programs and schools. In **Kensington South** arranged tree education programs for neighborhood schools, they helped to maintain neighborhood tree labs that will provide tree stock for subsequent plantings.

On a special note, Tree Tenders in **Kensington South** and **Spruce Hill** recently succeeded in obtaining **Philadelphia Urban Resource Partnership Grants** to fulfill even greater greening dreams.

The sixth Tree Tender class has demonstrated an impressive showing. **Lloyd Russow** and **Sally Mazer**, who attended the fifth Tree Tenders class as the East Falls Duo, returned to the sixth class with 17 recruits. The West Philadelphia contingent expanded as the new **"Over The Hill Gang"** Tree Tenders became acquainted with pre-existing Tree Tenders eager to take them under wing.

Frankford Greening Program, **Washington Square West**, and **Friends of Squirrel Hill** added new graduates to their ranks. New kids on the block are **Sydenham**, **Summerset**, **Germantown Greene**, and **Kensington North Tree Tenders.**

Perhaps the most exciting new component is the formation of an advocacy group, the **Philadelphia Street Tree Alliance**, to unite and help coordinate Tree Tenders interested in working toward broader common goals.

If you're interested in participating or learning more about the Alliance, contact **Tree Tender Johanna Fine** at 724-4517.

photo: Charlotte Kidd

East Falls Tree Tender Jim Park sweeps while Sue Park and John Griffin weed and mulch on Calumet Street.

Branching Out

In Howell Park, Tree Tenders met under an Old Chestnut

photo: Dwight S. Clark

Penn Knox Tree Tender Rebekah Ray read from "The Old Oak Tree" while volunteers took a break from park clean-up.

Pennsylvania's founder William Penn would be proud to see veteran **Penn Knox** and new **Coulter Street Meeting Tree Tenders** caring for the mature growth in Germantown's **Howell Park**.

Last September, members of both groups met to combine tree care with community outreach. Their work agenda included pruning trees and transplanting shrubs and bushes. Afterwards they met under a very old chestnut oak to discuss neighborhood revitalization and educating children about earth care. The chestnut oak is said to date to William Penn's day.

Tree Tenders Rebecca Schneider and **Catherine Franklin** also hosted a Germantown Tree Walk in late October as homage to some of our state's oldest trees.

Students revitalize city parks

Vernon Park was a hoppin' place last fall as young men in the **Urban Tree Connection** planted 15 hefty trees in one day along Germantown Avenue.

Through the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Parks Revitalization Program**, the **Germantown High School** students worked with PHS's **Eileen Gallagher** and **Chris Howse** as well as **Tree Tender Skip Wiener**.

The **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Forestry** funded the project through a **Small Business Administration** grant.

Tree species such as Zelkovia *(Zelkova serrata* 'Green Vase') and Pennsylvania Summit green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'Summit') were selected for their ability to endure harsh city conditions. Their stately, high-branching canopies will provide refreshing shade during hot summer days.

Smaller ornamental flowering trees - dogwoods (*Cornus kousa*) and crabapples (*Malus baccata* 'Snowdrift' and *Malus zumi* 'Calocarpa') were planted along the park's Greene Street edge.

Throughout the year, the Urban Tree Connection students will maintain the newly planted trees year 'round.

The park also benefitted from a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to study the park's historic plants and trees.

At a planting in Strawberry Mansion, Skip Wiener and PHS's **Mindy Maslin** directed young stewards from **Children's Services Inc., Germantown High School**, and **Strawberry Mansion Middle and High School.**

****

When your tree grows up...

Just one mature tree removes 26 lbs. of carbon dioxide from the air each year and releases 13 lbs. of oxygen - enough every day for a family of four. Trees can reduce unpleasant noises by 50%; The sounds of rustling leaves and twittering birds have a charm of their own.

****

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Funding: **The William Penn Foundation.**

Send comments, stories, inquiries to Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut St., Phila, PA 19106.

Deadline for submissions to the April issue is February 1.

Printed on recycled paper.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Roots and pipes - not to worry

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Okay, you're a tree lover. But deep down inside you're scared. You worry about the day when you have to plant a tree in front of YOUR HOUSE.

Maybe you already have a tree and you're battling a nagging anxiety. In the back of your mind is the fear that sooner or later, your pipes are going to pay the price. It's only a matter of time before your house's plumbing suffers from *sluggish flush syndrome* (SFS).

The arborphobic queasiness escalates when you think about those big, fat, gnarly, tenacious roots invading ancient sewer pipes. You envision clogged pipes and the resulting SFS, all leading to huge bills and happy plumbers.

Icky!

Let's meet Bob Schriver, a Roto-Rooter professional from Levittown, Pa. If you're speed-reading, I'll tell you now, the news is mostly good. Both your hardware and greenware are likely to be fine. There are some caveats though, so stay focused.

Bob's got dozens of great root stories, like the 137-foot winner of the "Monster Root Contest." Or the one that snaked its way all the way up and into the toilet bowl...

But let's move beyond the sensational stuff and consider some of Bob's observations regarding root culture:

- Fast-growing, aggressive trees have fast-growing aggressive roots. Willow, silver maple, poplar, and mimosa are likely culprits. Such species aren't on anyone's preferred list for street trees. We Tree Tenders know and prefer more mild-mannered urban forest dwellers such as the male ginkgo, 'Green Mountain' sugar maple, and 'Lavalle' hawthorn.
- SFS seems to be less a problem in urban areas and more prevalent in suburban communities. In many Philadelphia neighborhoods, residential soil pipes sit at a depth of six to seven feet. Tree roots are rarely any deeper than *three feet*. So there's roughly three feet of 'no man's land' between root zone and pipe zone.
- Pipe specifications these days call for resin-coated, cast metal. That's pretty darn impenetrable. Trouble usually starts at the joint (where pipes connect) when a leak allows air and moisture to escape, a place any root would be happy to call home. Despite the use of various joint compounds, a weak connection can encourage those first root hairs to find their way to the nutrient rich soil-pipe contents.
- Old style terra cotta pipes, according to Schriver, last and remain impermeable for years. Problems arise when the clay pipes shift during flooding, dryness, or freezing and thawing. Hairline cracks can develop which allow soiled water to seep out and feed hungry, thirsty roots.

In many Philadelphia neighborhoods, residential soil pipes sit at a depth of six to seven feet. Tree roots are rarely any deeper than three feet. So there's roughly three feet of 'no man's land' between root zone and pipe zone. It's very unusual for roots to come in contact with utility pipes.

A city dweller can keep SFS at bay with a little forethought and follow-through. Plant the right tree in the right location. Give love and attention to a soil mix prepared for good drainage and aeration.

Sand is the happenin' component of the moment, so adding one-third or more is great. Water slowly, long, and thoroughly so the porous mix of sand and organic matter will encourage deep tree roots.

Bob Schriver's message is that Philadelphia streets can be regarded as free and clear sites for planting the right tree in the right place.

Post This who, what, when, where

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS	For information about these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.
Wednesday, March 13	**Tree Tenders' Continuing Education** Planning a Neighborhood Arbor Day Celebration
Wednesday, March 20	**Tree Tenders' Continuing Education** Caring for Mature Trees
Saturday, May 11	**Tree Tenders' Training in Spanish** North Philadelphia
June 5, 12, 19	**Tree Tenders' Basic, Three-Session Training**

Arboreal Musings

Winter Tree Care

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

Although winter's in full swing, you can take some precautions to help your trees. Newly planted trees adjusting to their new locations are more prone to winter injury than established plant material. Winter problems range from dessication (drying out), uprooting, bark and bud damage to branches breaking under the weight of ice and snow.

Dessication can occur when tree pit soil freezes, leaving no moisture for the tree. Ground freezing and thawing may cause the tree to heave, which injures the root system. Both conditions can be mediated by topping the pit with a three-inch layer of mulch, such as leaf mold or licorice root, to help keep the soil temperature constant. Take advantage of any thaw to water trees thoroughly.

Ice and snow usually damage larger trees. To fortify smaller trees, tie up the branches with twine or soft rope before it snows. Don't forget to remove the twine and wraps in the spring.

To protect newly planted trees from bark damage, it's a good idea to wrap the trunk with burlap or tree wrap. Most bark damage occurs on the south side of the tree, where bark expands when exposed to the day's sun and contracts during frigid nights.

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photo: Charlotte Kidd

Fairmount Park's Mike O'Brien and Walt Stankas demonstrate the 'stretcher technique' for moving large trees. For more, see Spring Planting column, page 4.

City Council to honor Tree Tenders

On April 25, **City Councilperson Happy Fernandez** will present a resolution in which Philadelphia's council members recognize Tree Tenders' hard work and dedication during the last three years.

Councilperson Fernandez is so impressed with Tree Tenders' expertise and progress in her Powelton Village neighborhood that she wants to commend the volunteers and recognize their vital community service.

This resolution honors the 260 adults in 46 groups citywide who have participated in the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders'** training program to expand and maintain our urban forest.

Join us at the **City Council** meeting, 10 a.m., in City Hall on Thursday, April 25. We encourage everyone to proudly wear your Tree Tenders' t-shirt.

Planning an Arbor Day event

By Mindy Maslin

An Arbor Day event of any size inspires children and adults to look differently at their trees and environment and their responsibilities to both. Local Arbor Day events can anchor community greening activities by celebrating and rejuvenating local parks or street trees. (Pennsylvania schools are mandated to celebrate Arbor Day.)

In 1872, J. Sterling Morton founded Arbor Day in Nebraska to promote tree planting. More than one million trees were planted. Other states quickly adopted the idea. Arbor Day is now celebrated in all 50 states.

Following are some suggestions for planning Arbor Day.

An Exciting Event

Providing a variety of activity stations for groups and individuals is an easy way to organize an Arbor Day event. Favorite projects include making recycled paper, potting tree seedlings, creating items from recycled materials, and playing environmental games. Older children enjoy planning and running stations for younger children.

A Basic Ceremony

1. Plan a welcoming ceremony led by your school principal or community leader. When elected officials come, the media usually follow.

2. Explain Arbor Day history.

3. Sing songs and read poems about trees, especially tunes and poems written by participating children. (Tree 'raps' go over well!)

4. Plant a tree and involve children as much as possible! They can dig and fill holes for small trees, and mulch and water larger trees.

5. Discuss what trees need to survive and what hurts or kills them.

6. Bury a reused soda bottle as a time capsule. Include tree planters' names and a message to future generations.

For more details, call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Volunteer at the following Arbor Day events.
Call Mindy at 625-8280 to sign up.

Tuesday, April 16	*Norris Square (North Phila.)*
Thursday, April 18	*Marion Anderson Recreation Center (South Phila.)*
Friday, April 19	*Wharton Square (South Phila.)*
Monday, April 22	*Vernon Park (Germantown)*

Branching Out

From collar to trunk

In **East Falls, Tree Tenders** did winter tree prep from collar to trunk on Midvale Avenue, Kelly Drive, and East Park Drive.

At a Saturday morning meeting bolstered by coffee and donuts, arborist **Hal Rosner** demonstrated why it's important to remove soil from root collar flares. Mulch and soil within six inches of the trunk encourage bark disease and inhibit air circulation to the root flare.

Practicing new and old skills at that November event, the Tree Tenders spruced up a new planting of bare-root trees.

Along Midvale Avenue, they tackled scale-infested cherry trees. To scrub off the scale, they used brushes generously doused in a solution of Fels Naptha soap and hot water.

They also groomed tree pits, fertilized and mulched older trees. The crew included **Heather Abbato**, **Denis Bilger**, **Jessica Krow**, **Jane Lyons**, **Sallie Maser**, **Guy Ostertag**, **Jim Park, Sue Park**, **Sandra Russow**, **Joan Stanton**, and **Tom Williams**.

Jamboree

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fox Chase Farm

Pine Road, Northeast Phila.

sponsored by the

International Society of Aboriculture

Regional Competition

Best tree climbers from Pa. & Del.

Demonstrations of aerial rescue, tree removal, tree climbing

Plant Sale

Phone 685-0106 for more details.

Rain date May 5

Along Lancaster Ave., Powelton Village Tree Tenders engage their community.

Photo by Laurence Salzmann

Powelton Village Tree Tender José Almiñana (holding long pry bar) oversaw installation of his custom-made bollards that encourage root aeration and protect newly planted trees. Drexel University students and neighbors were among those who pitched in to place 16 Liberty Elms.

Lancaster Avenue, the first paved highway in the United States, has 16 new Liberty Elms, thanks to a collaborative effort that garnered an **America The Beautiful** grant.

The **Street Tree Committee of the Powelton Village Civic Association** spearheaded months of work that culminated in the formidable Dec. 2 planting.

In an exceptional outreach, the Street Tree Committee tapped their academic neighbors and community businesses. Students from **Drexel University's Alpha Phi Omega** fraternity, **Gamma Sigma Sigma** sorority, and the **wrestling, crew, and women's lacrosse teams** lent their muscles to the task.

Kidder Tree Service dug and delivered the carefully wrapped trees. The **Fairmount Park Commission** crew cut sidewalks to make way for new tree pits.

Among the 50 plus volunteers were **Tree Tenders Bev Agard,** who helped provide beverages and bagels and arranged for lunch, **Carolyn Adams,** who wrote the winning grant, and **Diane Pringle,** who publicized the event.

Committee member **Joe Revlock** helped organize the project. Neighbor and contractor **John Lindsay** provided tools.

The **Morris Arboretum's Bob Gutowski, Director of Urban Forestry,** and **Kate Deregibus, Section Leader**, were also on hand.

"It's been a really productive collaboration between the neighborhood and Drexel University," said committee leader and **Tree Tender Marilynn Taylor**.

"Tree planting has kicked off the awareness that we have the environment in common. The students were really enthusiastic and hard working. We look forward to further prospects for the greening of our shared community," Marilynn added.

The **Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council** awarded the American the Beautiful grant to the civic association's Street Tree committee.

Arborcide in New York City & England

By Charlotte Kidd

Killing trees is a crime with hefty penalties in New York City, thanks to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

In early January, a Queens resident was sentenced to 500 hours of community service for destroying five honey locusts and two London plane trees without a permit. The crimes constituted "arborcide in the first degree, premeditated arborcide," according to a Jan. 12 *New York Times* article.

Responding to an increase in illegal city tree removal, New York's mayor signed a bill that raises the maximum jail term for cutting trees without a permit to one year and increases the maximum fine to $15,000. The Parks Department will be able to seek damages up to $10,000 per tree removed unlawfully.

According to a report in *Horticulture Week*, Dec. 21, a builder in Huddersfield, England was fined $37,500 for destroying two protected ancient sycamores. The first tree died after being covered with excavation debris. The second tree succumbed after 60 percent of its roots were cut to build a garage.

Philadelphia tends to have several types of illegal tree removal, said **James Donaghy, Director, Operations and Landscape Management, Fairmount Park Commission**.

The city's Street Tree Code prohibits anyone from doing anything to trees without a permit, he noted. "Illegal tree removal does occur. Generally we receive a complaint after the fact," he said, which makes prosecution difficult.

The theft of valuable trees from woodlands such as Paulownia and black walnut is treated as a theft of a city asset, Jim added. During the last six years, at least five such cases resulted in arrests and convictions including fines, he said. A repeat offender was jailed.

Another type of illegal tree removal involves work-for-hire by uninsured and unlicensed contractors which leaves the property owner liable for problems and damages. Jim advised homeowners "to get in touch with the Fairmount Park Commission for its list of contractors approved to remove trees who've shown us proof of insurance and license."

In Philadelphia, two regulations address trees.

The Philadelphia Code, Section 14-2104(13) indicates street tree planting policy. The Fairmount Park Commission regulations include Section 401, Street Trees, Plants and Flowers. The section about 'Prohibited Conduct' includes the following:

(a) No person shall prune, spray, plant, cut down, break or remove any tree, plant, ... without the approval of the Commission....

"Fines of up to $300, plus costs are now possible and for the first time, citations may be written and handed out by police or Park Commission or City designees," according to the Regulation Book.

FPC Information Officer Tom Doyle suggested that Tree Tenders phone his office (685-0000) if they spot an instance of illegal tree removal. His staff will alert police.

L.P. Hill School tree sleuths win oldest tree contest!

Last fall, **Fairmount Park arborist Gus Jardel** challenged students to locate Philadelphia's Oldest Tree.

Just in time for Arbor Day, the winning students are in **Jane Schloss's class** at **L.P. Hill Elementary School**, 32nd and Ridge.

Their entry is an American sycamore at 5125 Woodbine Ave. estimated to be 224 years of age. The tree measures 14.6 ft. in diameter and is calculated at 70 ft. tall.

"Our intent is to heighten children's awareness of trees while they're at an impressionable age," Gus said. Although it may not be the city's oldest, the American sycamore was the oldest tree entered in this contest. "Next year, students may top that," he added.

Tree maintenance grants available

Grant applications due May 1, 1996 to Philadelphia Green's Grants Program.

Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership is making funds available to support Philadelphia Green's tree care efforts. With that resource, Philadelphia Green is accepting grant applications from Tree Tenders for:

- pruning mature street trees,
- removing hazardous trees,
- generally maintaining street trees.

The grants require matching funds, services, materials, etc.

For grant guidelines and applications, write
Philadelphia Green's
Grants Programs
325 Walnut St.
Phila., PA 19106

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
Editor: **Charlotte Kidd** with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin and Sally McCabe
Funding: **The William Penn Foundation**
Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut St., Phila. PA 19106
Deadline for July issue submissions is May 1.
Printed on recycled paper.

Arboreal Musings

Spring - a perfect time to plant

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

Spring and fall are the best times to plant a tree. In spring, plant before the buds break to encourage a little bit of root growth before the hot weather. In the fall, plant after the leaves have dropped.

Think about the kind of tree and where you are going to plant it. Stick with native species that grow well here.

Don't put a tree under wires or plant a big tree too close to a house. A mature tree's big branches may break and fall on the roof. Most nurseries and the Fairmount Park Commission have information about street tree selection.

When buying a balled-and-burlapped tree, look for a solid, tight root ball. A wire basket adds support in case the tree falls. If the root ball is broken or damaged, the roots are going to be crushed too. Big roots poking out of the ball indicate that the tree wasn't root pruned and may not have enough fibrous roots to support top growth.

When moving the tree from the nursery, make sure the entire tree is covered to prevent moisture loss. A tarp or burlap should be wrapped to cover every branch tip.

Always handle a tree gently - by the ball. Picking it up by the trunk will loosen the collar and shake and break roots. Air pockets will form and the roots will dry out.

Planting a tree is a delicate process. Be careful. A tree may not look heavy but it is. Wet soil weighs about 60 lbs. per cubic foot; an average tree root ball holds 4 to 5 cubic feet that weighs 250 to 300 lbs.

It's important to have two or more people lift the tree off the truck. Don't drop the ball. I like moving a tree with the 'stretcher' effect. Slip two shovel handles under the rope so they criss-cross the top of the wrapped ball. Two persons stand on each side. Each grabs two handles or shovel ends. Then they lift the root ball together.

At home, carefully consider the tree's location - away from gas, water, electric conduits.

The rule of thumb for planting: when buying a $10 tree, dig a $20 hole. Good technique and soil amendments give the tree a chance to take off.

I mulch the tree pit to keep moisture in and reduce winter heave. A nicely mulched pit also acts as a detour for lawnmowers that tend to injure bark, leading to insects, disease, and scars.

Water a newly planted tree with a good 15 to 20 gallons once or twice a week, depending on dryness, wind, and location. Feel the soil to make sure it's moist, not saturated. Too much water displaces the oxygen in soil and kills the tree.

On a very hot windy day, wet the whole tree including branches and leaves to cool it and counter high water loss. Water for the first few years.

To stake or not to stake, that is the question. I prefer staking to keep a tree straight and discourage vandalism. Remove the stakes after a year.

Fertilizing isn't recommended until the tree is well-established. Newly amended soil certainly provides enough nutrients and water carries those nitrates, phosphorous, potassium and traces of micronutrients into the roots. Save your Miracle-Gro for the azaleas, rhododendrons, shrubs, and flower beds.

Planting in the $20 Hole...

1. Dig the hole twice as wide but only as deep as the ball
2. Pile the soil nearby. Put turf aside to help form the water saucer later.
3. Mix the removed soil with amendments such as leaf mold, dried sawdust, peat moss, old manure, organic matter in ration of 3-parts-soil to 1-part -amendments.
4. Peel the burlap away from the trunk to find the soil line, but don't remove the burlap or wire cage until the tree's safely in the hole. An unprotected root ball might be damaged or broken when moved.
5. Place the tree in the hole. Keep the soil line level with the ground. Planting too deeply smothers the roots. Planting too high causes the upper roots to dry out when the surrounding soil settles.
6. Do all your work while the tree is in the hole. Cut the wire basket. Remove all rope and burlap. Removal is especially important because plastic burlap and plastic wiring are commonly used and roots can't penetrate the plastic burlap. Remove cloth burlap that can act as a wick, absorbing water from the soil around the roots.
7. Firm (don't compact) the amended soil around the root ball. To remove air pockets and lumps, water when backfilled halfway. Pack down, add more soil, water, and pack some more. Bring the backfill up to grade, water again and pack down to keep roots from hitting air pockets.
8. Make a saucer about two feet from the trunk, mounding soil to keep water in the root zone. Turf pieces will help anchor the soil mound. Fill with two to three inches of mulch, wood chips, pine bark. Water again.
9. Stand back, stretch those aching muscles. And enjoy your tree!

The Sidewalk Arborist

A slow trickle quenches a deep thirst

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

I'll let you in on something: I really don't think we're watering our beloved trees enough.

"Landscape plants probably suffer more from moisture-related problems than any other cause," says Dr. Richard Harris in his book *Arboriculture.* "For (trees) it is either feast or famine, flood or drought, air or suffocation, acceptable water or saline water."

Water is an essential ingredient in the photosynthesis formula. Take it away and plants stop growing. During drought conditions, shoot growth grinds to a halt and roots wither. The wonder is that leaves up top may actually look okay despite parched subsoil in the root zone.

With regular and deep (but not excessive) waterings, a tree's growing season can be extended far into the summer. As tree stewards, we need to optimize factors that encourage growth and minimize stress. Pruning, fertilizing, and mulching are a part of the package, but water provides the fuel to keep a tree chugging along, photosynthesizing, and pushing more shoot growth.

The question then is how much? The best advice might be to develop a *sense* for when and how much to water, because it varies throughout the year. In mid-July, for example, the pit soil could suck down seven to 10 gallons a week. By fall, it might be more like two or three gallons.

You need to work like a reverse divining rod. Instead of finding water, you'll seek dryness and compaction. For a street tree, a watering program can be about eight months, from March until the end of October. We often say "an inch a week," but that's really just a guideline that mimics the regional annual rainfall amounts.

Best to crouch down with trowel and dig a handful or two of soil. Rub the earth through your hands and feel for the presence of dampness. If soil runs Sahara-like through your fingers, look to the bright sky with furrowed brow, and say grimly: we need rain. Then go get your bucket.

Here's an easy way to make a simple, accurate watering device. You'll need one of those white five-gallon buckets, a hammer, and an average-sized nail. Hammer the nail into the side of the bucket, about an inch from the bottom. Now, fill the bucket with water. At pitside, cultivate the soil or loosen the mulch layer to a depth of three to four inches. If possible, re-form the saucer. Pull out the nail and direct the stream into the root zone.

The slow trickle allows for deep watering. In exceptionally hot, dry weather, fill the bucket a second or third time. And there's nothing wrong with recycling bath or dish water. Just remember to avoid bleach or soaps with heavy detergents.

Smart watering will help your tree grow faster. Your tree will be happy and you'll be happy.

Tree books at Falls of Schuylkill Library

Friends of the Falls of Schuylkill Library donated two tree books to the **Falls of Schuylkill Branch Library**.

Street Tree Factsheets includes photos and cultivar and species factsheets featuring more than 170 suitable street trees. It was edited by Henry D. Gerhold, Norman L. Lacasse, and Willet N. Wandell and published by The Pennsylvania State University.

City Green, written and illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, is a 1995 selection of the Philadelphia Children's Reading Roundtable. The heroine, Marcy, engages neighbors in the surprising transformation of an empty lot into a flourishing garden.

For more information, contact **Cynthia Kishinchand** at 849-2474.

Oldest Trees of Philadelphia Bike Ride

Sunday, April 28

Starts 12 noon

Boat House Row, Kelly Drive

HELMETS REQUIRED!

in conjunction with the

Bicycle Club of Philadelphia's Annual Bike Bazaar

Join Mindy Maslin and Hal Rosner on a tour of historic trees in Germantown.

Riders may connect with the group enroute.

Tree locations compliments of Penn Knox Tree Tender Catherine Franklin who has identified several old trees including a chestnut oak in Howell Park that predates William Penn.

Call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for more information.

Post This who, what, when, where

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

For information about these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Arbor Day programs for local children are held in parks around the city from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Tuesday, April 16	**Arbor Day**, *Norris Square (North Phila.)*
Thursday, April 18	**Arbor Day**, *Marion Anderson Recreation Center (South Phila.)*
Friday, April 19	**Arbor Day**, *Wharton Square (South Phila.)*
Monday, April 22	**Arbor Day**, *Vernon Park (Germantown)*
Wednesday, April 17	**Old Tree Care and Pruning** (Tree Tenders' Continuing Ed.) Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania Northwestern Ave., Phila., Pa. RSVP to Mindy Maslin
Saturday, April 27	**Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Annual Plant Sale** Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park
Sunday, April 28	**Oldest Trees of Philadelphia Bike Ride** Starts 12 noon, Boat House Row, Kelly Drive
Thursday, May 9 & Saturday, May 11	**Tree Tenders' Training in Spanish** North Philadelphia
Wednesdays, June 5, 12, 19	**Tree Tenders' Basic Training** PHS, 325 Walnut St. RSVP to Mindy Maslin

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
325 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2777
215-625-8280

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Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

Vol. 3 • No. 3 • JULY 1996

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Vice President Blaine Bonham Jr., Tree Tender Tom Lederer, and PHS Outreach Coordinator Mindy Maslin accepted the City Council Resolution from Council member Happy Fernandez.

City Council honors Tree Tenders

Arbor Month held a special tribute for the city's Tree Tenders. **Philadelphia City Council** honored the 250 volunteers with a resolution citing their commitment to tree care and community education.

Thirty Tree Tenders proudly took center stage at City Council's April 25 meeting where **Council member Happy Fernandez** presented the original Resolution. Impressed with the progress of the **Powelton Village Civic Association Tree Tenders** in her neighborhood, she wanted to honor the PHS tree stewards.

"Whereas Tree Tenders saw the value in caring for neighborhood trees which relieve the scorching heat of summer, provide oxygen, absorb greenhouse and carbon dioxide gases and beautify our neighborhoods," Ms. Fernandez read from the resolution. "To date the Tree Tenders have planted 1,000 trees and tended to over 6,000."

Before the ceremony, Tree Tenders talked informally with city legislators in Council Chambers. During the exciting presentation, they displayed our 'Celebrate Trees' banner at the podium.

Nominate your favorite Tree Tender

Our 1996 **Picnic With a Purpose** on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 15, promises to be filled with surprises and celebration for this third year of **Philadelphia Green's Tree Tenders**.

In addition to the cook-out, tree care tips and children's events from noon to 4 p.m., the 2nd Annual Picnic will include a Tree Tenders' Awards ceremony.

Who in your neighborhood are Philadelphia's best tree advocates? Who deserves an extra round of applause? Here's your chance to tell everyone!

Awards categories include the following. Also feel free to create your own!

- Tree Tender of the Year
- Tree Tender Group of the Year
- Friend to All Tree Tenders
- Best Community Outreach
- Best Fundraiser
- Most Trees Planted
- Most Trees Maintained
- Best Work with Children

Mindy Maslin, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Outreach Coordinator, will accept nominations until September 7. Contact her at 625-8280 for details.

Bicycling tree huggers search for the oldest tree in Philadelphia. Story about the bike ride on page 7.

Branching Out

Point Breeze trains with PURP grant

Under the guiding hand of **Mamie Nichols**, the **Point Breeze Federation** was the first Tree Tender group to host a two-part mini Tree Tender training for neighbors this spring.

Point Breeze received a **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership** (PURP) grant to plant street trees in the neighborhood. The grant stipulated that homeowners who wanted trees would attend TreeTenders training.

Rich Sunday, District Two arborist for the **Fairmount Park Commission**, assisted in species selection and site inspections.

Pennsylvania Horticultural Society staff, including **Jeff Myers**, **Eileen Gallagher**, and **Mindy Maslin,** gave technical support and trained Point Breeze participants.

Congratulations and best of luck with your new trees!

Coulter Street Friends and Penn Knox plant red bud

Tree Tenders **Rebecca Schneider**, **Catherine Franklin**, and **Tina Lecoff** organized an April 21 tree planting with the **Germantown Coulter Street Meeting** and **PennKnox** neighbors. Children attending the Meeting's First Day School helped to plant a red bud (*Cercis canadensis*) tree in a vacant lot at the corner of Coulter Street and Wayne Avenue.

"We wanted to show the children that planting this tree is a tribute toward uniting our hands in the earth and planting life and beauty in our neighborhood," Rebecca said. "Tina gave the children planting instructions. We sang songs around the tree - "Kookabura" and "Every Man." It was a glorious event."

Fairhill Park neighbors take a new look at a park tree during the recent Spanish Tree Tenders' training with arborist Hal Rosner.

A milestone in Fairhill

The first **Spanish Tree Tenders'** training was held this April in the **Fairhill** section of **North Philadelphia**.

Iris Brown of **Norris Square Neighborhood Project**, **Jorge Aravez** of the Fairhill neighborhood, and **Elvin Padilla**, coach at **Taller Puertorriqueno** and former PHS intern, hosted the project.

Mindy Maslin and arborist Hal Rosner presented the two-part training about tree physiology, urban stresses, and tree care.

In the second session, participants who included staff from Taller and neighborhood children gained 'hands-on' experience caring for newly planted London plane trees near Taller. They also surveyed the health of trees in Fairhill Park.

Saplings available for transplant

Young green thumbs at the Meade Elementary School and a Germantown tree farm have produced a bumper crop of saplings. The trees, two to six feet tall, need good homes. Call Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for details.

Study finds trees reduce violence

Trees may be peacemakers, according to a University of Illinois study. Residents of selected public housing sites in Chicago who live near trees had less violence in their homes than those whose apartments were surrounded by concrete, the study found. They were more likely to use reason to overcome conflict with a child and less likely to engage in violence against their partners. In areas with trees and grasses, residents also reported stronger ties and better relationships with neighbors.

The study of 300 residents used questionnaires and interviews to gather data. Drs. William Sullivan and Frances Kuo theorized that trees provide settings where relationships can grow stronger. In contrast, people living in treeless areas experienced chronic and severe symptoms of 'mental fatigue.'

August 1 Extension

for Tree Tenders to apply for tree maintenance grants

Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership has made funds available to support Philadelphia Green's tree care efforts. So Philadelphia Green is accepting Tree Tenders' grant applications for:

- pruning mature street trees,
- removing hazardous trees,
- maintaining street trees.

The grants require matching funds, services, materials, etc.

For grant guidelines and applications, call Eileen Gallagher at 625-8280 Philadelphia Green
Grant application deadline: Aug. 1, 1996

Picnic With a Purpose

Sunday afternoon, Sept. 15
Noon to 4 p.m.
Cook-out,
tree care tips,
children's events,
Tree Tenders' Awards
in Fairmount Park at
Northwestern & Germantown Aves.
Nominate your favorite tree advocate by September 7.
Contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280 for more details.

Sharing breakfast and ideas...

Fairmount Park Commission's Lori Hayes talked with Tree Tenders John Boyce and Rebecca Schneider.

Over a breakfast of quiche and bagels in early May, nine Fairmount Park Commission staff joined 22 Tree Tenders and Philadelphia Green staff to discuss success stories and challenges.

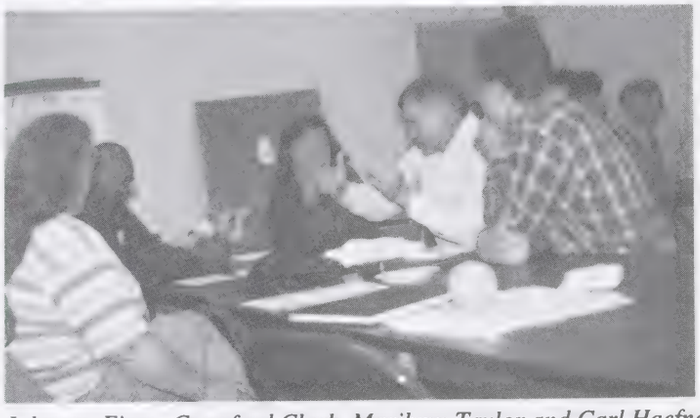
The meeting was an opportunity for Tree Tenders and interested Fairmount Park arborists, tree inspectors, and district managers to get to know each other as well as their common interests and unique situations.

Speaking for the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC), district manager **Chris Palmer** said he and his staff are happy to continue working with Tree Tenders citywide. "It's amazing what they've done with basic pruning and education," he said. "It's been a great relationship over the past three years. We look forward to more work together and encourage community groups to get involved in any way they can... including contacting government officials and City Council regarding budget issues."

Tree Tenders **Marilynn Taylor** and **Johanna Fines** of **West Philadelphia** shared stories about successful partnerships with FPC arborist **Gus Jardel** and district manager **Crawford Clark**. They've collaborated on school activities such as the **Shaw Middle School** street tree project, community tree plantings and bare-root planting experiments.

Tree Tender **Mamie Nichols** expressed her appreciation for FPC arborist **Rich Sunday**'s help with a recent tree planting in conjunction with the Point Breeze Federation.

Given budget constraints and the challenges of their jobs, FPC staff talked withTree Tenders about ways they might continue to help each other preserve our urban forest.



Johanna Fines, Crawford Clark, Marilynn Taylor and Carl Haefner listened as Gus Jardel made a point during the small group discussion.

ARBOR MONTH

April 1996

Tree Tenders celebrate in East Falls and Powelton Village

Photo by Jacki Popielarski

Tree Tender Marilynn Taylor directed Drew School students planting trees with FPC arborist Gus Jardel's 'gold' shovels.

At the **Drew School** in **Powelton Village**, Tree Tenders **Marilynn Taylor** and **Bev Agard** coordinated an Arbor Day planting with **Jacki Popielarski's** students.

In their letters pictured above, the children were especially impressed with Fairmount Park Commission arborist Gus Jardel's 'gold' shovels.

The Tree Tender group also cared for trees in their community garden as well as some recently planted elm trees along Lancaster Avenue.

Tree Tender Alice Reiff watched with pride as school students and senior citizens reach across generations at an Arbor Day dedication in Ridge Park East.

Arbor Day was twice the fun in East Falls this year. On April 20, Tree Tenders helped dedicate two saplings at the Opening Day ceremony of the **East Falls Sports Association**.

The following week at Ridge Park East, Tree Tender **Alice Reiff** coordinated a second Arbor Day tree planting with the help of Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) staff.

"We have many people to thank," Alice said. "**Carol Ganguire** (FPC landscape architect) worked hard to obtain the trees for our celebration. **Walt Stankus** (FPC park manager) arranged the planting. East Falls senior citizens helped with activities for students from all three neighborhood schools - **Penn Charter**, **Mifflin**, and **St. Bridget's**."

The children formed a circle, held hands, danced, and sang "Touch The Earth." Alice added, "The purpose was to teach love and respect for all living things."

THE
PENNSYLVANIA
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

100 N. 20th Street - 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

Telephone: 215/988-8800
Facsimile: 215/988-8810

BE A TREE-TENDER

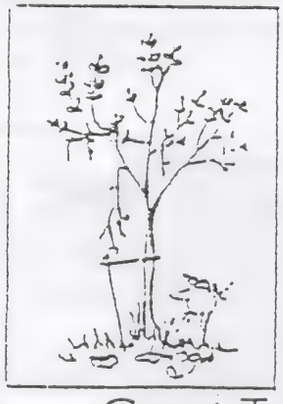
Learn Tree Care

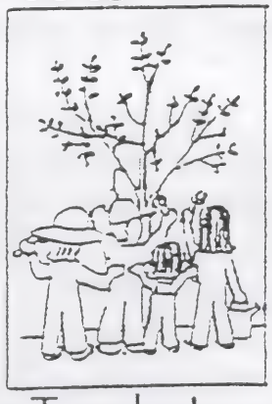
and keep your trees & city healthy!

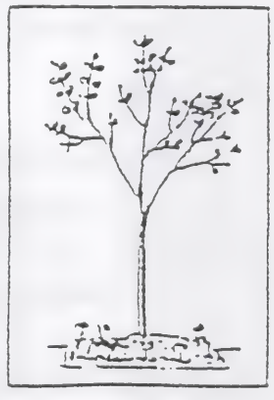
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society is offering classes and hands-on training to groups interested in caring for trees in their neighborhood.

- Training is free to groups that commit to organizing tree care days.
- Individuals can volunteer with an organized group or pay $25.
- 9 hour training takes place over three consecutive weeks. (Wednesdays evenings this September)

If interested call **988-8845** and say . . . . .







Yes, I'm a Great Tree-Tender!

The next Tree Tender training will be Wednesday Sept. 11,18& 25.

Producer, Philadelphia Flower Show

Sponsor, Philadelphia Green

THE
PENNSYLVANIA
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

100 N. 20th Street - 5th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495

TREE TENDERS'
2ND ANNUAL POTLUCK

PICNIC WITH A PURPOSE

Co sponsored by Powelton Village Tree Tenders and The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15
10AM -2PM

BRING YOUR FAMILY(there will be children's activities), FRIENDS AN D FUTURE TREE TENDERS

Join us for hands-on workshops to sharpen old skills and learn new ones in...

***Tree Pruning** ***Fruit Tree Care**
***Starting a tree nursery** ***Container Growing Trees**
***Soil Testing and Ammending**
***Building Arches and Gates from recycled materials**

Be prepared to get dirty!
Bring pruners, gloves,

FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOPS: *Join Fellow Tree Huggers for a sure to be scrumptious POTLUCK LUNCH. Bring a dish to share plus your own plate, cup and silverware (so we don't have to cut down trees for this event). We will provide drinks.*

THE DAY BEFORE

Powelton neighbors invites you to join them for a ***pond workshop*** *with* ***Pat Valentine*** *on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 10AM-2PM*

BRING PLANTS TO SWAP AND A POTLUCK LUNCH

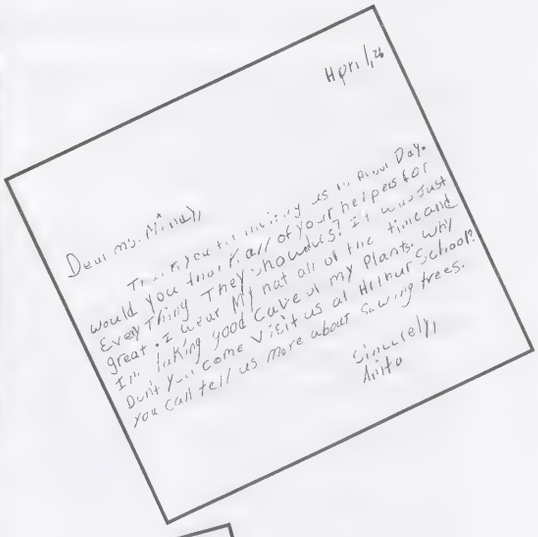
***Location:** The Summer / Winter Garden at 33rd and Race Streets in **Powelton Village** accessible by the Market Frankford EL - taken to 34th street, then walk North 2 Blocks to Race

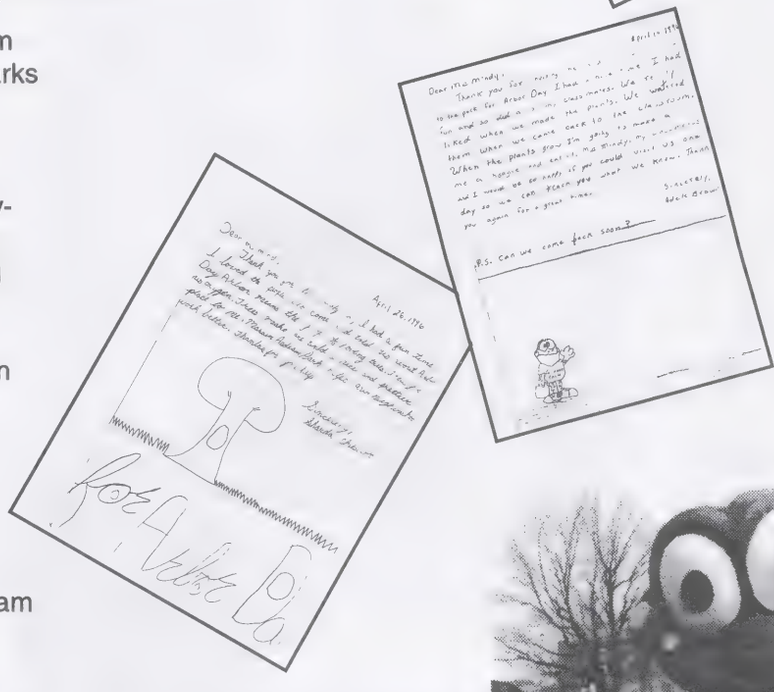
*** For either activity and for childcare, RSVP** to Cheryl at 988-8845

Photo by Ira Rockoff

Photo by Ira Beckoff

In Wharton Square, children took center stage.





Philadelphia Green in City Parks

Throughout April, 1300 children from 25 schools gathered in four city parks - **Norris Square**, **Vernon**, **Wharton Square**, and **Marian Anderson** - to celebrate Arbor Day.

Under mostly sunny skies, they traveled among activity stations, learning songs with **Beth Williams** and making recycled paper with **Denise Kloss**.

At the **Schuylkill Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation Center** station, children touched turtles and other animals.

The youngsters also enjoyed tasting home-grown foods from Pennsylvania at **The Reading Terminal Market**'s display.

The **Pennsylvania State University's Urban Gardening** program included lessons about composting.

When a thunderstorm threatened Norris Square, **St. Boniface School** saved the day by inviting about 300 youngsters into the cafeteria to celebrate trees.

Photo by Ira Beckoff

Petting the turtle was a hit at the Schuylkill Valley Wildlife Rehabilitation Center station.

Photo by Ira Beckoff

A special guest, the Fairmount Park Frog shook hands with nearly all 1,300 children.

Arboreal Musings

Liquid sunshine

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

Water - liquid sunshine - is the essence of life. In a tree, water is involved in just about every living process.

Trees consist of 75 percent to 90 percent water. Three quarters of the trunk (sapwood, phloem, heartwood) are water products. The leaves, twigs and other green parts are 90 percent water.

Working its way up the tree, water is involved in transporting all the nutrients and performing different chemical processes for growth. Water is responsible for all the material you see: bark, wood, cellulose, leaves, fruits, seeds.

Trees get water through the ground, absorbing available water through their root hairs. In a tall, mature London plane, roots may reach several feet past the drip line, sometimes 30 to 40 feet.

By the way, roots don't grow towards water. They don't have a divining rod. They will grow and flourish in a nice moist medium.

Trees don't absorb water from the air or from rain hitting leaves. Water molecules are too big to enter the microscopic openings in leaves called stomates. Only gases, carbon dioxide and oxygen, enter through the stomates. Water on the leaves evaporates.

Water, though, does exit the tree through stomates. In transpiration, water moves up to the leaves where it is either released into the air through stomates or it transports carbon dioxide for photosynthesis.

Each tree transpires from 300 to 1,000 pounds of water - 50 to 160 gallons a day.

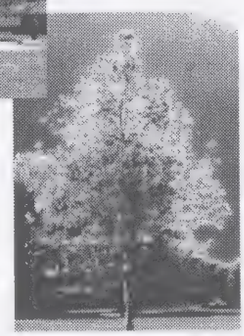
It takes immense energy to pump water up some 20 feet in a matter of hours. Turgor, the water pressure in the plant cells, keeps everything firm.

A healthy tree

On nice days, the stomates are open - absorbing carbon dioxide and allowing water to escape. That's why you feel real cool underneath a tree. The shade and water give the cooling effect. It's like walking on the grass in bare feet.

As long as the buds are colorful and plump and the twigs are green, the tree's in good shape. Scratch a twig's bark to show the green outer ring of healthy xylem and phloem.

Full, leafy canopy means enough water



Sparse canopy indicates water stress

Water-stress distress

When a tree is water-stressed, its leaves wilt, pucker and look flaccid and flat.

Water-stressed trees conserve water by closing stomates. When the stomates shut down, water can't get out and carbon dioxide can't get in. Photosynthesis for food production stops. Plant cells collapse when they don't get enough water.

In drought conditions, trees adopt a survival mechanism. We saw that last fall when the rainfall was 16 to 17 inches below normal. Many tree canopies were sparse because of early leaf drop.

In prolonged drought, leaves wilt, turn brown, shrivel up and drop off. Trees go dormant. Sometimes a distressed tree will send out a lot of fruit to preserve the species in case it dies.

Annual rings (the light-colored sap wood of xylem and phloem that conducts water and water-soluble food) for 1995 will be smaller due to the water shortage.

Rainmaking - urban style

When rain is scarce, people can help by watering by hand and mulching the tree pit and surrounding area to keep water in the soil from evaporating.

A brief soft rain, a shower, isn't sufficient. Rain has to penetrate the tree's canopy to reach the ground. A good, steady soaking rain will make the leaves heavy, causing them to fold so the water falls through.

Newly planted trees lose about 80-90% of their roots through damage in the transplant process. They are very susceptible to water stress, especially if planted during a spring followed by summer drought.

Monitor a new transplant by checking the dryness of the planting pit at the top. If it feels dry, that's a good time to water. Give it 15 to 20 gallons of water twice a week.

Despite our dry summers, I don't recommend planting only drought-resistant trees. A spell of wet weather may foil that idea. I like to see a variety of trees. Species native to the Northeast are tried and true.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Smaller species - the start of a beautiful thing

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

For a truly transcendental experience, recite this not-so-subliminal message:

I will start planting trees whose mature height is less than 30 feet.

Sidewalk trees are short-changed when it comes to the amount of soil they need for a healthy life. I'll hazard a guess that most of your neighborhood's street trees started their relocated (transplanted) life plopped in about 27 cubic feet of soil. That's fine when they're small but in the long run, that's not a lot of loam, folks.

Figure that after a concrete-oscopy, the resulting pit is only about three-feet-squared. We're all learning that 'bigger is better' when it comes to tree pits.
Research shows that limited soil volume hinders tree health usually by limiting available water.

I will start planting trees whose mature height is less than 30 feet.

Think of the NBA variety size 15 foot hyper-crammed into a size 10 sneaker. Yow-ee! That's the case with mature London planes, red and willow oaks and other large species. As street trees, they engage in a major subterranean turf war. Heaving sidewalks and girdled trunks are nature's way of telling you something's wrong.

Prominent horticultural researchers Dr. Nina Bassuk and Dr. Patricia Lindsey offer an enlightening roots' eye view in their paper "Specifying Soil Volumes To Meet The Water Needs of Mature Urban Street Trees and Trees in Containers" in the June 1991 issue of the Jo*urnal of Arboriculture*.

Bassuk and Lindsey make their case in a great introductory paragraph: "Inadequate soil rooting space can be one of the more important factors in the premature mortality of trees in urban areas. Clearly, there is a basic conflict between the biological needs of trees, whose roots systems are generally near the surface and spread laterally, and the small and confined areas they are relegated to in the design of streets in our urban areas.

"The typical street tree pit, which is inhospitably sandwiched in a narrow strip between the road and sidewalk, places severe limitations upon healthy growth and development. The small volumes of soil in these areas often do not hold sufficient water to meet transpirational demand resulting in the tree experiencing periodic prolonged water deficits."

I will start planting trees whose mature height is less than 30 feet.

Big pits. Species that don't exceed 30 feet. It's the start of a beautiful thing. This strategy may well convert many who are hesitant about sidewalk trees.

Consider the grim statistic that haunts every urban tree lover. The average life span of a city street tree is in the range of seven to 10 years. Untimely death results when trees spend their lives deprived of adequate water.

If we can continue those great tree pit expansion projects and plant a few more of the smaller recommended species, life would be very good.

SMALL TREE RECOMMENDATIONS

Trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*)
Tatarian maple (*Acer tataricum*)
Amur maple (*Acer amurensis*)
'Strawberry Parfait' crabapple (*Malus* hybrid)
'Winter King' hawthorn (*Crataegus viridus*)
American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)
European hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)
Turkish filbert (*Corylus colurna*)
American hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*)
Amur corktree (*Phellodendron amurense*)

Oldest Trees of Philadelphia Bike Ride

Tree Tenders, the **Bicycle Club of Philadelphia**, and **Coulter Street Friends** held the first Bike Ride of Philadelphia's Historic Trees on April 28. About 30 cyclists visited trees in Germantown selected by Tree Tender **Catharine Franklin**. The itinerary included a chestnut oak, a scotch elm and a *Gingko biloba* - Pennsylvania Champion trees dating back to William Penn's time.

After cycling from the Fairmount Water Works to Howell Park, riders appreciated the refreshments Tree Tender **Rebecca Schneider** prepared. Arborist Hal Rosner narrated at each stop. Mindy Maslin led the pack while Tree Tender **Torben Jenk** kept stragglers enroute. And **Harry Hemmerle** of the Bicycle Club navigated the group down the safest paths during the leisurely 15-mile ride. Join us next year!

Post This who, what, when, where

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

For information about these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 625-8280.

Weds., September 11, 18, 25
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Tree Tenders' Basic Training
At the new PHS office, 100 North 20th St.
RSVP to Mindy Maslin

Sunday, September 15
noon to 4 p.m.
Picnic With a Purpose
Fairmount Park at Northwestern & Germantown Avenues
RSVP to Mindy Maslin

Thursday, September 26
Southeastern Pennsylvania Community Tree Association
Delaware County Cooperative Extension office, Springfield, Pa.
Julianne Schieffer, Extension Urban Forester, 610/489-4315

Youth Tree Corps 1996

Eight Philadelphia Department of Recreation Centers that host summer environmental camps again will be including Youth Tree Corps programs.

Mindy Maslin will instruct children in basic tree care, exploring why trees are important, and what we can do to keep them healthy.

If you are interested in a similar program for children ages 9 and older, contact Mindy at 625-8280.

Famous and Historic Trees via America Forests

American Forests magazine sponsors the Famous and Historic Trees project that combines contemporary conservation with United States history. Container-grown trees associated with significant people or historic events are available for $35. Call 1-800-320-8733 for details.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
Editor: **Charlotte Kidd** with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin and Sally McCabe
Funding: **The William Penn Foundation**
Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 325 Walnut St., Phila. PA 19106
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Vol. 3 • No. 4 • November 1996

PURP Grant Recipients

Several Tree Tender groups received **Pennsylvania Urban Resources Partnership** grants through **Philadelphia Green** for tree pruning, maintenance, and removal in 1996.

They are: Awbury Arboretum, East Falls Tree Tenders, Frankford United Neighbors and Library Greening, Friends of McMichael Park, Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders, Kater Street, Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council, Penn-Knox Neighborhood Assoc., Powelton Village Civic Assoc., Regent Square Civic Assoc., and Woodstock Street. Friends of Clark Park and Squirrel Hill Community also received grants.

At the Second Annual Tree Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose, Phyllis Martino and Jason Irizarry of Impact Services help youngsters identify a branch's bark, cork, and vascular cambium.

Second Annual Tree Tenders' Picnic

In the dappled sunlight of the Liberty Elm Tree Nursery, about 35 Tree Tenders practiced pruning before sitting down to pot luck at the Second Annual Picnic with a Purpose in West Philadelphia.

Co-sponsored by **Powelton Village Civic Association Tree Tenders** and the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**, the picnic was held under sunny skies on Sunday, Sept. 15 at Powelton Village's **Summer-Winter Community Garden**, 33rd and Race streets. Besides giving the young elms a good clipping under the direction of arborist **Hal Rosner**, picnic goers attended demonstrations about starting a tree nursery, installing a pond, testing and amending soil, and caring for fruit trees.

"Everybody thought it was a wonderful event," said **Beverly Agard**, a Powelton Village Tree Tender who distributed flyers and organized picnic nibbles. "All the trees in the Liberty Elm Tree Nursery were pruned and mulched. And the food was great."

Powelton Village Tree Tenders who also helped with the event are **Carolyn Adams**, **Bill and Alyse Halpin**, **Shan Holtz, Marion Kreiter**, **Libby Levinson**, **Diane Pringle**, nursery and garden coordinator **Joe Revlock**, and **Marilynn Taylor**.

Inspirations to us all, the following Tree Tenders and friends of Tree Tenders were honored at the Picnic with a Purpose.

1996 Tree Tender Awards

- **Tree Tender of the Year**
  Johanna Fine of Spruce Hill and **Tom Lederer** of Kensington South
- **Tree Tender Group of the Year**
  East Falls Tree Tenders and **Powelton Village Tree Tenders**
- **Tree Tender Planting**
  Impact Services
- **Tree Tender**
  Rebecca Schneider and **Carol Vanagaitis**
- **Friend to All Tree Tenders**
  Hal Rosner and **Julianne Schieffer**

Awards to Fairmount Park Commission staff for work above and beyond...

- **Apple**
  Pat Crossan
- **Ginkgo**
  Gus Jardel
- **Oak**
  Walt Stankus
- **Willow**
  Rich Sunday

Branching Out

Over-The-Hill Gang rides again - in Southwest Philly

By Charlotte Kidd

Years ago, **Jacquelyn Wright** enjoyed watching the "Over-The-Hill Gang" - a TV show about people helping their neighbors and trying to save their land.

Now the 1400 block of South 54th Street has its own **"Over-The-Hill Gang"** - a dynamic Tree Tenders' group committed to improving the neighborhood and spreading the environmental word.

"The name just stuck with me," said Jacquelyn, who founded the new Tree Tender group this spring with **Doris Johnson**. Jacquelyn and Doris, also block co-captains, have a vision, a plan, and the motivation to make things happen.

"We have a tree planting program going with **Fairmount Park arborist Gus Jardel**," Jacquelyn said. "We would like to clean up and beautify our neighborhood with trees and flowers. We'd also like to have abandoned houses either torn down or repaired. And we want more police protection to make the community safer."

So far, they've worked with Gus to have 14 trees planted in front of their homes with more to be installed this fall. Once a month about eight Tree Tenders, including block committee secretary **Rosetta Gary** and neighbor **Bea Smack**, meet to talk about progress and future plans.

Between meetings, Jacquelyn and Doris nurture the newly planted trees. "We go out, loosen up the dirt, and prune the little branches," Jacquelyn said.

They also volunteer time with the **Shaw Middle School** science students who are raising saplings in their tree nursery. "We've met with the students twice and talked about the benefits of trees. We've watered, mulched, and pruned trees with the kids," she said.

The newly planted street trees have been taking a beating - which only reinforces the value of early environmental education and intervention, Jacquelyn added. Young children don't bother the trees but teenagers like to snap branches, vandalize the tree pits, and play with the stakes.

"For them, trees are just something to swing on. I'm thinking about getting neighborhood kids together to learn about the benefits of the environment," Jacquelyn said, glancing out her window to see yet more branch damage to a new street tree. "But teenagers around here have their own mind."

She looks forward to being even more involved. "I'm happy I got the position on the Philadelphia Green Advisory Board and will do my best."

Growing Trees in Containers Workshop in Bel Arbor

Sat., Nov. 16
1-3 p.m.
10th & Washington Sts.
RSVP to Cheryl at 988-8845

Help Bel Arbor Tree Tenders.
Learn how to grow trees in containers.
Take trees for your neighborhood.

Bel Arbor Tree Tenders will plant their field-grown evergreen and deciduous trees in containers on Sat., Nov. 16. When the trees are ready, they'll be used in gardens, parks, and other green spaces. Lend a hand and learn about potting, care, and planting techniques. Participants are encouraged to take trees for their communities.

Cindy Perkiss joins staff

Cindy Perkiss recently was appointed Outreach Coordinator for Youth in Communities here at PHS. As a Temple University horticultural student, Cindy interned with Mindy Maslin two years ago.

"I will be taking over children's programming, coordinating environmental education with trees as a focus and working with youth groups and environmental programs at schools, in communities and parks," said Cindy.

She'll also emphasize projects that bring together parents and teenagers, seniors, and teens as mentors for younger children.

"I see horticulture and work with kids as a healing mechanism for the people involved as well as for the habitat we live in," added Cindy, an experienced family therapist.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Cindy knows what the city was and can be. "I would like to return to times when kids felt safer, water and air were cleaner, with more birds and butterflies and tree-lined streets - a time when people took care of each other in their communities," she said.

1996 Tree Tenders' List and Resources

District One

1. **East Falls Tree Tenders**, Cynthia Kishinchand 849-2474
2. **Impact Services**, Phyllis Martino 739-1600
3. **Kensington North Tree Tenders**, Zoa Schisler 423-1025
4. **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tenders**, Tom Lederer 634-6330
5. **North Philadelphia East Tree Tenders,** William Perez 232-8806
6. **Rainbow Park for the Arts**, Iman Kahanab 425-1356
7. **2400 Block East Dauphin**, Lynn Shain 425-1302

District Two

8. **Beau Gardens**, Mark Moncavage 627-4218
9. **Bookworms**, Cynthia Olds 629-1337
10. **Bel Arbor/Kimball Street Common Garden,** Julie Snell 627-9537
11. **Fairmount Parents, Business, Neighbors Assoc.,** Rose Marie Pasicznyk 236-2671
12. **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Tree Tenders,** Ed Grusheski 592-4908
13. **Fitler Square Tree Tenders**, Trudy Kuehner 545-6599
14. **Friends of Cianfrani Park**, Roxanne Galeota 829-0582
15. **Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders,** Henry Hauptfuhrer 925-2696
16. **Kater Street**, Marsha Canfield 592-1614
17. **Liberty Lands**, Janet Finegar 627-4633
18. **Logan Square Assoc.**, Wylie Garcia 568-4745
19. **Norris Square**, Iris Brown 634-2227
20. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders**, Sara Olsen 922-6732
21. **Passyunk Tree Tenders**, Andrea Krupp 463-8215
22. **1600 Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders**, Bill Jenkins 765-8484
23. **Society Hill Civic Assoc.,** Jean Bodine 627-8393
24. **South Phila. Tree Tenders**, Anna Maria Vona 336-3154
25. **The Philadelphian Apt. Tree Tenders**, Molly Albert 763-8311
26. **Urban Gardeners**, Maureen O'Hara 560-4167
27. **Urban Landscaping Club**, Brooke Coldiron 574-1473
28. **Washington Square West**, Virginia Trosino 625-2599

District Three

29. **Awbury Arboretum**, Tom Mishler 849-2855
30. **Coulter Street Meeting**, Rebecca Schneider 438-3012
31. **C.W. Henry School**, Steve Donegan 232-5459
32. **Duval Improvement Assoc. Tree Tenders**, Madeline McGee 848-0565
33. **Friends of Queen Lane Station**, Nanci Harmon 848-2854
34. **Germantown Greene**, Ruthe Yaskin 844-2328
35. **Oaklane Tree Tenders**, Charles Phillips 232-9793
36. **Olney Tumbling Team**, Daisy Cintron 924-4917
37. **Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders**, Tina LeCoff 844-2188
38. **Roxborough Tree Tenders**, John Boyce 487-3725
39. **Schuyler Street Tree Tenders**, Tony Mauro 844-7328
40. **Seachange Resource Center/CDC**, Jacqui DeShields 978-5930
41. **Wissahickon Stewardship Program**, Jason Lubar 242-2059

District Four

42. **Belmont Community Gardens**, Rasheedah Hyman 222-7192
43. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders**, Johanna Fine 724-4517

Fairmount Park Commission

Park Manager:	Walt Stankus	685-0107
District Arborists:		
***District One**, North Philadelphia*	Mike Helsen	685-0108
***District Two**, Center City & South*	Rich Sunday	685-1837
***District Three**, Northwest Philadelphia*	Ernie Barile	685-2577
***District Four**, West & Southwest*	Gus Jardel	610-352-8644
***District Five**, Northeast Philadelphia*	Charles Patton	685-8795
Tree Maintenance Crew Chief	Sarah Hoster	685-8795

Resources

Mindy Maslin, Outreach Coordinator, PHS	988-8844
Morris Arboretum	247-5777 Plant Clinic Ext. 141
Pennsylvania One-Call System Call Before You Dig	1-800-242-1776
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	988-8800
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Hotline	988-8777

44. **Habitat For Humanity**, Frank Console & Sean Toner 477-4639
45. **Larsage Neighbors**, John Scott 747-3117
46. **Mantua Green Tree Tenders**, Beverly Lawrence 222-7852
47. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders**, Mamie Nichols 334-2666
48. **Powelton Village Civic Assoc.**, Marilynn Taylor 386-2240
49. **Regent Square Tree Tenders**, Naomi Segal 222-4453
50. **Spruce Hill Community Assoc. Tree Tenders**, Lauren Leatherbarrow 386-3905
51. **The Over-The-Hill Gang**, Jacquelyn Wright 727-1693
52. **Wynnefield Residents Assoc.**, Skip Wiener 877-7203

District Five

53. **Friends of Fox Chase Farm**, Jim Kates 686-2354
54. **Whitehall Tree Tenders**, Carol Vanagaitis 535-5301

New Jersey

55. **Collingswood Horticultural Society**, Gayle Reedy 609-854-3592

Arboreal Musings

Autumn's changes

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

Fall used to be my worst time because it reminded me of going back to school. Since I've been interested in trees though, fall has become the greatest time of the year. I really enjoy walking around and seeing the changes that reflect the cycle of life.

Getting older, I see myself changing. My hair is starting to get gray and occasionally a strand or two falls out - rather like autumn's cycle. Sitting back and watching the beautiful colors is an opportunity to think about how leaves and trees change too.

A lot goes on inside a deciduous tree before leaves turn color and drop. The green pigment chlorophyll and two hormones, auxin and dormin, are major players. The chemistry of leaf drop and color change are intertwined.

Leaves turn color as the sun's light decreases. The light-sensitive process of leaves changing from green to so many shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple is called photoperiodism.

Green leaves contain large amounts of chlorophyll, the green pigment that powers photosynthesis - the chemical process of turning sunlight into a tree's food.

As the days shorten, chlorophyll cells die and the green pigment fades. That gives other pigments an opportunity to show their hues.

Reds, oranges, and yellows are carotenoid pigments. Some yellows and translucence may be the pigment xanthophyll.

The reds and purples we see in black gums, sugar maples, some dogwoods, and many fruits and berries is the anthocyanin pigment.

Meanwhile there's also a change at the point where leaf meets stem. When the days get shorter, the connecting cell layer called the abscission starts to deteriorate. The decay occurs as the light-sensitive hormone auxin gradually shuts down, allowing the hormone dormin to kick in.

Dormin acts like an acid, destroying the connection between leaf and stem. The dying cells clog the xylem and phloem that conduct water and food.

This is also the tree's way of plugging up any leaks so nutrients and water aren't lost during the cold winter.

Little by little the leaf displays different colorful pigments. Then one moment, a gust of breeze or tug of gravity causes it to fall.

The leaf has completed its summer job of producing food for growth or winter storage in the roots when trees are dormant. On the ground it decomposes enriching the soil.

Often in city lots where soil is poor and the iron content high, autumn leaf colors are just as nice or nicer than in the forest.

Leaf colors are often quite bright after a late summer and a dry fall. Warm sunny days and cool nights bring out the best too.

It's always nice to see leaves change color. Some autumns are just more striking than others. As they say in baseball, there are no bums in the Big Leagues.

The black gum tree, one of the first to change into red fall color, is one of my indicators that fall has arrived. In mid-September, the oval leaves were orange-yellow-red. It looked like the old black gum at the Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park would be a deep, brilliant red as winter approached.

One autumn exception is the pin oak which keeps its leaves for the longest time. It defoliates in early spring when the new buds push the existing leaves off the tree. The leaves do change color though to brown, yellow, or reddish - depending on soil condition, iron and water content, pH, and temperature.

Autumn is a time of transition. I think we should celebrate the last day of the year when the last leaf comes down, and celebrate the new year when the first bud emerges.

In Philadelphia, a lot of trees show attractive fall color.

Red leaves could indicate sugar maple or maple cultivars such as 'Sunset' or 'October Glory.' Some Japanese red maple varieties turn brilliant red. The garden at the Horticultural Center has a grove of Japanese maple species and cultivars that gives a colorful fall show. Come and visit.

Ginkgo and black locust leaves are golden yellow. Leaves on Norway maple, linden, mulberry, and *Ailanthus* also turn yellow. Beech leaves turn brilliant copper. Some dogwoods have a burgundy hue. Persian ironwood or *Parrotia* turns brilliant maroon. London plane, *Paulownia,* and American sycamore leaves become yellow-brown.

- Walt Stankus

The Sidewalk Arborist

The organic amendment

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

For those tending street trees planted in the past ten years, fall or early winter is a good time to work generous amounts of organic matter into a tree's root zone.

Amending with humus not only loosens soil but increases its ability to hold moisture. As rich organic matter, humus also decomposes into a wide range of nutrients.

You can use your own compost concoction or compost products available right here in Philadelphia. Two excellent soil conditioners are in abundance. EarthMate, a sewage/ sludge/wood chip product from the city's Water Department, can be purchased in bulk or taken for free at city pick-up points.

At Fairmount Park's Recycling Center on Ford Road, you can load up on a their legendary leaf/wood chip/manure mix. Both blends improve the health of city soils and are likely to provide steady, low-level amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium.

We all know how tree pits can be so lifeless and harsh. Organic matter is just plain good for your street trees and will perfectly complement the most depleted soil in tree pits. City soils often contain a high percentage of clay that may become chunky or clumpy, or smooth and rock hard over time.

Unlike clay, organic matter has a short life and breaks down rather quickly. Adding humus helps soil to remain "alive" as a favorable environment for root growth. Slow decomposition ensures that plants have a steady supply of nutrients.

Fall cultivation is timely because plants are well into the dormant cycle. Although some roots will be disturbed, that's unlikely to affect overall tree health. As roots on a healthy tree regenerate quickly, they will take advantage of improved conditions.

Think of the advantage forest trees have in naturalized sites. This thick, deep, and abundant humus layer is what we're trying to replicate in our tree pits.

Recently I began working around my own street tree. A couple of years had lapsed since the humus was replenished. I was surprised to find how heavy the clay content seemed to be.

At summer's end, you may have to work through crabgrass or a hardened surface off which raindrops bounce. I had to hack through weeds and the hard, sun-baked layer on my tree pit.

The soil particles seemed quite small. When damp, they easily mashed together like a mixture of clay and sand.

Cultivating and amending your tree's root zone should be rigorous, like a good massage. Loosening the top four or so inches promotes the exchange of air and water and nutrients.

From the tree base to the tree pit perimeter, I worked up the top few inches. I figured that after this upheaval, the roots would only have better days ahead.

The next step was to add about two five-gallon buckets of organic matter. Basically, in the upper four or five inches, I tried to achieve about a 50-50 mix of humus and existing soil. Then I used a three-tined cultivator to incorporate the humus into the soil.

The immediate pay-off was watching how easily water moves through the soil. After amending, I mulched generously to preserve the tilth of the reconditioned soil.

Leaves into Compost

Leaves make easy and good compost. Chop into smaller pieces with the lawn mower. Heap into a pile. Turn once or twice a month and the mix will be ready to use as a soil conditioner next spring and summer.

Oak and beech leaves are acidic, so use them on acid-loving shrubs such as rhododendron and azalea. Most other leaves are alkaline.

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WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

For information about these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 988-8844.

Wednesday, November 13
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Back to School with PHS Tree Tenders
Learn how to get youngsters, schools, and communities greening together. Leave with ideas, games, and contacts.
Pizza provided (of course) and door prizes
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., Pa. RSVP to Mindy at 988-8844.

Saturday, November 16
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Growing Trees in Containers
With Bel Arbor Tree Tenders at **10th & Washington Sts.**
RSVP to Cheryl at 988-8845.

Wednesday, November 20
10:30 and 11:30 a.m.

'Stuck on Trees' Program for Children
Please Touch Museum, 210 N. 21st St., Phila., Pa. Admission $7.50

Sunday, February 2
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Tu Bishevat/Jewish Arbor Day Celebration
Call Mindy at 988-8844.

Wednesday, January 29
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Insects and Diseases Workshop
By Dr. Ann Rhoads, Director of Botany, Morris Arboretum
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., Pa. RSVP to Mindy at 988-8844.

June 1997

Next Tree Tenders' Class

Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL *SOCIETY*

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Tree bill before City Council

Philadelphia Councilman Michael Nutter, Fourth District, recently introduced a bill to City Council that would return full responsibility for street tree maintenance and removal to the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC).

Although the bill doesn't directly provide additional money for the services, it's a significant step toward implementing a routine tree maintenance program, according to **Julia Chapman**, Nutter's Chief of Staff. "We plan to be strong advocates for funding this."

Nutter's office asks Philadelphia residents to support the legislation to be considered at a public hearing in February.

Although the FPC already is responsible for street and park trees, the current city street tree ordinance mandates that property owners maintain trees abutting their property, Chapman said. "The proposed legislation makes planting, maintenance, and removal the exclusive responsibility of the Fairmount Park Commission."

The bill's passage wouldn't supplant the **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Tree Tenders** program, Chapman said. "We want to encourage community groups to take care of their neighborhoods." The legislation could lend support and increase awareness about Tree Tenders, she added. "We want to make that happen across the city."

The tree bill is a direct response to community requests. "We've heard from a lot of constituents about the frustration they have to get a tree trimmed or a dead tree removed," Chapman added. "We feel strongly that the city needs to spend the money for routine maintenance to preserve the trees...Trees have many benefits that help make city life more livable. There are a lot of things we need to do to take care of them."

Bill 960-826, which would amend Section 15-203 of The Philadelphia Code, is in the Committee on Rules. It is expected to come before a public hearing in early to late February. Citizens are encouraged to testify to help the committee to make an informed decision, Chapman said. The bill is timed to coincide with the city budget process, she added.

For more information and announcement of the hearing date, phone 686-3416.

Center City District trees planted with new technique

José Almiñana, a Powelton Village Tree Tender, wants to increase the odds for street tree survival. As a principal in designing the Center City District (CCD) landscape, José helped meet the challenge with the latest research from Cornell University.

José is a landscape architect with **Andropogon Associates Ltd.** which collaborated with **Cope Linder Associates** and **The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania** on the CCD design.

Trees installed in the CCD are expected to be healthier and live longer because Jose and his team members used new planting techniques to address two major urban problems for tree roots: insufficient soil volume and compacted soil.

Continued page 2, column 1.

A Call to Active City Park Groups!

Philadelphia Green has received a William Penn Foundation grant for parks' revitalization projects such as physical improvements, organization building, and more....
Philadelphia's Department of Recreation Parks are eligible.
For information about the application procedure, contact Maitreyi Roy at 988-8800 by February 7, 1997.

Branching Out

Tree Tender Julie Snell lifted an irrigation line so Andrea Krupp, Rebecca Williamson, Brother Jesse O'Neill, Lorraine Lerner, and Deborah Hall could remove saplings for transplant into pots.

Tree Tenders and community volunteers in Bel Arbor

In mid-November at the **Bel Arbor Tree Nursery** at 10th and Washington Streets, about 40 volunteers and PHS staff members transplanted about 200 eight-foot deciduous and coniferous saplings into containers.

The **Bel Arbor Tree Tenders** had to move the established trees from one part of a recently sold lot into hills of mulch on an unsold corner section. The mulch will protect the potted trees through winter's cold. Most volunteers also took some trees for their community plantings.

Rebecca Williamson, group president, said the young trees eventually would be transplanted in gardens, parks, and along city streets.

Center City District trees (continued)

Deep trenches, specific soil mix

To provide more soil, the unique landscape plan included deep, wide trenches for all trees plus aeration and watering pipes in trenches for new trees. Soil compaction by traffic and pedestrians was addressed through using an innovative, weight-bearing planting mix to reduce root damage.

Cornell research

José explained the project details at the **Growing Trees on Urban Sites** conference at the Morris Arboretum in November. He referred to Dr. Nina Bassuk's Cornell research that points to soil compaction as a major tree killer.

To increase a city tree's chance of survival, planting in large trenches increases soil volume so roots have more room to grow.

Dr. Bassuk's recent studies also show that experimental seedlings subject to extreme compaction and planted in a mix of 5 parts stone to one part soil, sand, and organic matter had substantial root growth. In correct proportions, the stone pieces touch each other to distribute and accept weight to reduce compaction and root damage.

Center City trees - Phase One

The design team began the CCD project with a small- scale demonstration on Filbert Street. This helped team members to understand the logistics of using the new planting techniques for huge trees on a city street. They installed trees 13 to 15 feet apart in islands rather than the usual 25 feet on center.

Last fall for the CCD planting between 7th and 20th, Walnut and Sansom streets, the team planted 180 trees - 4 1⁄2 inch caliper, from 10 to 18 feet tall, with an oversized 54-inch root ball and weighing about 600 pounds. They adapted the Cornell mix to consist of about 60 percent stone and 40 percent soil and organic materials.

José explained that Phase One was exceptionally complex because of timing. Contract deadlines required that the trenches be dug by June but the trees weren't available until late September, early October.

To assist in the difficult and cumbersome planting, José said, the natural burlap and wire baskets were retained to keep the root ball intact and ease placement and handling.

Potential wicking action is minimal because the burlap isn't exposed to the air, he said. Next year any burlap and hemp cord that haven't disintegrated will be removed from the tree trunks as part of the ongoing maintenance program.

Phase Two next spring

Next spring, the project's second phase will involve planting 200 trees in various blocks of Locust and Walnut, north and south of Sansom and 9th streets, José added. The trees will be available as the trenches are dug, so workers will be able to remove part of the wire baskets when planting.

"The challenge of this project is to create an environment where urban trees can thrive," José said. "To achieve this, new techniques have to be implemented to be able to support our urban forest."

How To Track a Big Tree

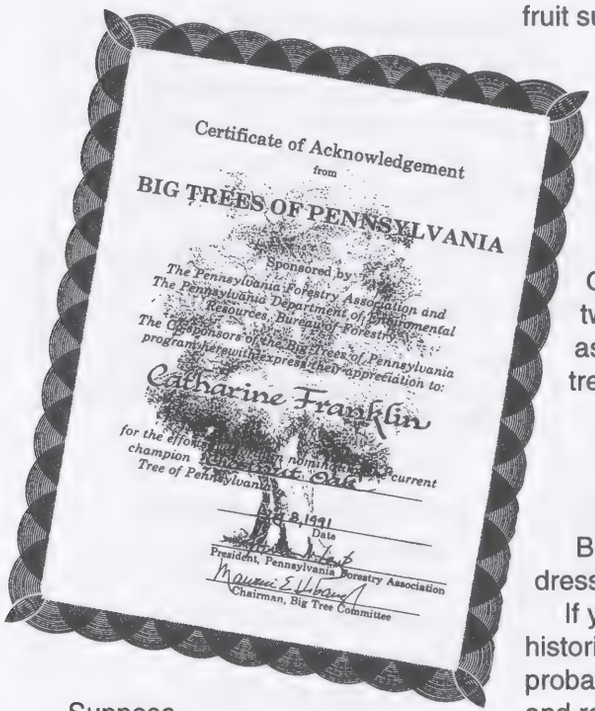
By Catharine Franklin, Penn-Knox Tree Tender

In Philadelphia, where the life of a tree is often short, old, large trees are rare.

They are true survivors - of drought, salt, scarring, sewer excavations, and cramped locations. They may be older than our oldest relative's great-grandfather's great-grandmother.

But how do you know how old they really are?

You need an expert.


Certificate of Acknowledgement
from
BIG TREES OF PENNSYLVANIA
Sponsored by
The Pennsylvania Forestry Association and
The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, Bureau of Forestry
The Co-sponsors of the Big Trees of Pennsylvania program hereunto express their appreciation to:
Catharine Franklin
for the effort and interest in nominating a current champion Tree of Pennsylvania
Chestnut Oak
1991
Date
President, Pennsylvania Forestry Association
Chairman, Big Tree Committee

Suppose you know a huge tree. Be sure to ask permission of the owner to measure it. Take a tape measure, a pencil, a pad, and a friend. Young friends like this. Measure from the ground up to four and one-half feet. At that height, measure the tree's circumference.

This is the CBH, the circumference at breast height. If a tree has started to branch below four and one-half feet, measure the single trunk below the crotch and record the height at which you took it.

Then walk around the tree. Look at its drip line, the outermost branch tips that drip water straight to the ground. You are going to measure the tree's spread. You may look for the biggest measurements but there must be two readings at right angles to each other.

Next comes the tree's height. Can you estimate it? Is it near a house with several stories?

Write down the tree's address.

Gather a couple of nice leaves, fruit such as acorns, maple wings, and seeds from the tree.

Write down what the bark looks like - corky, shaggy, silvery, smooth, rough, ridged, etc. Including a small twig with buds is good.

Send the tree's address, its CBH, spread, height, leaves, twig, and fruit with a note asking for identification and tree's age to:

Jeff Stuffle
Bureau of Forestry - DCNR
1132 Ridge Road
Pottstown, PA 19465

Be sure to include your address and telephone number.

If you've found a significant or historic tree, the Chief Forester probably will want to come to see and re-measure it for his records.

The forester will use a special tape to measure the tree's diameter and an altimeter for the height. If you ask, he'll show you how to identify the tree: what makes it different from other species.

Tree professionals look at the world differently, with carefully honed vision. It's a pleasure to be a part of it. Not least, the forester may give advice about how to prolong the tree's life. He'll compare his records about the tree in question with others of the same species.

Champion Tree fever

If your tree is a whopper, you may have a Pennsylvania State Champion. There is a Champion, or possible one, for each different kind of tree.

Size may be a clue, but girth and height alone aren't dependable indicators. Champion trees vary in size because each species grows at a different rate.

For example, hickory trees grow one-seventh as fast as oaks. A Champion Japanese maple may look so insignificant in size that you walk right by without noticing it.

If your tree is a Pennsylvania Champion, you'll receive a state certificate with your name on it and possibly that of the property owner or friend. Two names are allowed.

Then your life will change.

People will come up to you and say, "I know a bigger one!"

Histories of trees, who planted them, locations of old houses and barns, old books, family pictures, and stories will surface.

Neighborhood pride increases. Worries about diseases and dead limbs lead to fascinating conversations with experts and tree surgeons. Maybe you'll write a grant. Reporters like old trees. School children like to hug them and draw their pictures.

And when you have done something for an old survivor, whether mulching or deadwooding or simply giving recognition, it feels wonderful.

With no previous tree-tracking experience, Toni Kippen and I completed this process in 1991 for the big oak in Howell Park that turned out to be the Pennsylvania Champion chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*). We thank Peter Hibsham and Nicolas King who first recognized the importance of the Howell Park oak in Germantown.

Trees in the City, Region, State

PURP Grant Boosts Tree Maintenance From Germantown to West Philly

by Charlotte Kidd

Several tree-related greening projects are completed or nearly finished thanks to funding PHS received from the **Pennsylvania Urban Resources Partnership (PURP)**.

All groups were required to show a match in the form of additional funding, service donations, volunteer labor or a combination of all three, explained **Eileen Gallagher**, project manager of PHS' **Community Greening** department. In-kind labor such as conducting a tree inventory and removing stumps is calculated at $8.00 per hour.

Criteria also included stipulations that work be done primarily on street trees and that proposals include two to three cost estimates.

Every grant recipient group is required to submit a quarterly report that documents work completed and includes one roll of slides. If the project is completed within the first quarter, one final report is sufficient, Eileen said. All the projects must be completed by August 1997.

"Community groups like these can't afford to do it themselves. Because street tree care has been deferred for so many years, the substantial costs of deadwooding, pruning, and tree removal are out of the realm of most residents," Eileen said. "Hopefully from the support generated by this pilot project, we can persuade the funders that tree maintenance is needed."

Projects finished or under way

Awbury Arboretum
Proposal: substantial pruning and deadwood removal on about 25 trees at the historic Cope House and at the arboretum's main entrance
Completion date: Nov. 11, 1996 - in time for the arboretum's 80th anniversary

PURP/PHS grant: $3,300
Match: $3,300 from **The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**; $7,000 in work donated by **McFarland Tree Service**; $1,500 in work donated by **Rainbow Landscape Co**.

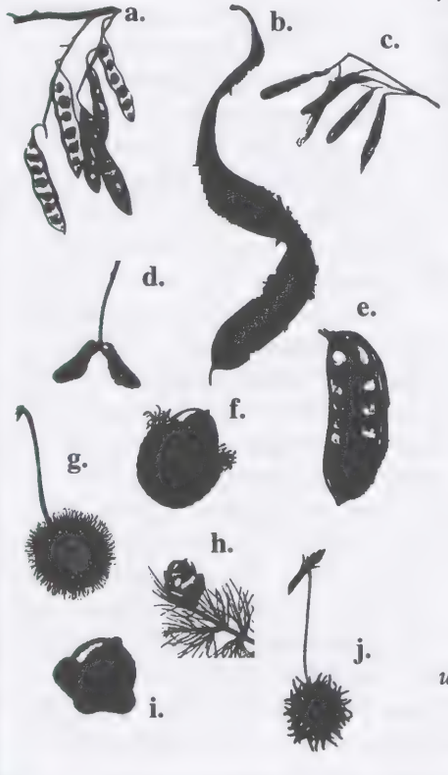
Friends of McMichael Park
Proposal: complete removal of two large oaks, stump grinding, pruning dead wood along the street
PURP/PHS grant: $3,000 grant
Match: funding and labor: $500 from Friends of McMichael Park, $1,000 grant from Amoco Oil. Co. plus community labor to mulch and maintain all tree pits

Penn-Knox Neighborhood Association
Proposal: removal of five extremely large trees at Coulter Street and Wayne Avenue
PURP/PHS grant: $4,300
Match: community contributions of labor to remove stumps and small trees, to mulch, and to produce a newsletter about the work. Association member **Tina LeCoff** will donate landscape architectural services.

Regent Square Civic Association
Proposal: expansion of 14 tree pits by removing concrete impeding root growth, removal of one dead tree, and contracting for planting four street trees

Find the fruits and trees that produce them.

Enjoy this matching game before or after reading Walt Stankus' column "Fruits and Nuts" in this issue.



_ pin oak (*Quercus palustris*)
_ Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
_ sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
_ larch (*Larix* species)
_ red maple(*Acer rubrum*)
_ honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
_ black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
_ burr oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
_ white ash (*Fraxinus americana*)
_ London planetree (*Platanus* X *acerifolia*)

Answers: a. black locust, b. honeylocust, c. white ash, d. red maple, e. Kentucky coffee tree, f. burr oak, g. London planetree, h. larch, i. pin oak, j. sweet gum

PURP/PHS grant: $2,000
Match: community contributions of labor to fill and mulch tree pits and money to fund dead tree removal and overhead street tree pruning

Powelton Village Civic Association
Proposal: work on 72 trees in a four-block area; prune for wires and deadwood removal; dead tree removal
PURP/PHS grant: $8,000
Match: $8,000 collected from property owners requesting tree work plus labor as **Tree Tender Carolyn Adams** organized the tree survey and the database documenting the project's need and scope.

1997 Eastern Arborists' Jamboree

Saturday, June 14
Haverford College Campus
Phone Gus Jardel
at 610/352-288-0251 for details.

Tree Tenders' ideas for the future

What has your Tree Tenders' group accomplished? Do you have suggestions and questions?

PHS outreach coordinator Mindy Maslin asks Tree Tenders to watch the mail for an annual evaluation.

She and other PHS staff will use your responses to help develop the Tree Tenders' program for the future.

To show appreciation for your help, PHS will award financial support and materials worth from $100 to $500 to participating groups based on their 1996 accomplishments.

When the evaluation arrives, take a pen to paper and brag!

Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Events:

For more details, contact Julianne Schieffer at 610/489-4315.

New Concepts for Community Trees

June 19, 1997
Kulpsville Holiday Inn
A workshop in the Community Tree Stewardship program
Features:
- new trees developed at the National Arboretum
- aerial trench & structurally engineered soils by Jim Urban
- mycorrhizae by Randy McDonald
- mulch by Brent Brantley

Community Tree Stewards' Workshops

at Temple University's Ambler campus
April 16: Tree Commissions and Workplans, Pruning
April 30: Ordinances, Liability, Site Evaluation and Tree Selection
May 14: Education, Outreach, Community Involvement; Volunteers; Planting; Contracting
May 28: Fundraising and Grants, Tree Inventories
June 4: The Big Picture/Management Plans, Community Models

Southeastern Pa. Community Tree Assoc. Meeting

June 26, 1997
Street Tree Arboretum at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park

In Partnership: Street Tree and CDC Programs

This spring PHS' **Street Tree** and **Community Development** (CDC) **Programs** will collaborate to bring greening resources to new target areas. Street Tree Program manager **Deborah Hall** said the new sites are in Frankford, Ludlow, Germantown, and New Kensington.

The Street Tree Program also will wrap up work on a three-year grant for plantings at Lehigh and Allegheny Avenues, in South Central Philadelphia, Kensington, and on select blocks east of Broad Street. Tree care workshops will be scheduled from spring into fall.

"After we introduce ourselves, we'll hold educational workshops," Deborah added. "By working as a team, both programs can make a greater impact and bring more greening resources such trees, compost, mulch, tables, benches, perennials, annuals, and barrels to these communities."

Arboreal Musings

Fruits and Nuts

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

I have an expression: Unless a squirrel takes it and plants it, the nut doesn't fall too far from the tree.

I like to use fruit to identify trees. Trees produce fruits and seeds that perpetuate their species. A tree is classified as either angiosperm, which means a seed in a vessel, or gymnosperm meaning "naked seed."

Angiosperms reproduce by flowering which makes an ovary that at maturity is a fruit. Hardwood trees such as maples and oaks are angiosperms. Conifers and certain deciduous trees are gymnosperms.

It takes a tree anywhere from five years to 30 years to reach maturity and make flowers and fruit. Their development depends on environmental conditions, age, tree location, soil conditions, and water.

In a good year with enough moisture, the tree will have a good seed crop. Some species, like beech and sweet gum, have cycles when they produce an abundance of fruit. Sometimes a tree that's distressed and going to die starts producing a lot of fruits to perpetuate itself.

Among the angiosperms, the hardwoods and flowering deciduous trees are ashes, sycamores, planetrees, and hickories.

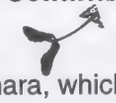
Achene

The London planetree species produces an achene, which is a single, dry fruit. Usually two, sometimes three fruits hang from a single stalk. The fruits are brown, bristly, round, dense clusters visible on the trees and the ground during winter. The seed-filled fruits are surprisingly fragile, soft, and fibrous.

Nutlet

The Linden tree's flowers mature into a nutlet-a small, round, woody fruit accented by an elongated bract.

Samara



Another fruit is samara, which is like a winged achene. Female Ailanthus trees produce clusters of green to red-brown samaras. Ash trees also have samaras - dense clusters of flattened wings.

In winter and spring, the red maple has red buds and double, small samara that contain one seed in each wing.

I think the tulip poplar tree has one of the nicer fruits. It has a attractive spring flower that develops into an aggregate of samaras.

Capsule

The Paulownia tree fruit is a capsule that contains many seeds. This is an attractive tree. In late spring Paulownia push out purple flowers followed by a proliferation of brown capsules. Filled with flat furry seeds, the capsules break open. The seeds are dispersed by the wind and birds. In winter, the Paulownia has flower stalks covered with furry tan buds as well as mature capsules.

The round hard, spiky ball of the sweet gum is filled with small, winged seeds that birds enjoy eating. We got a lot of criticism for planting that species along the parkway. I think it was a good choice. A lot of times you can brush the seed pods onto the turf area which keeps people from walking on the grass.

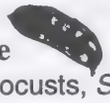
Nut

The oak is an example where identification of the nut comes in handy. Oaks are very hard to tell apart. They hybridize freely in nature. If you have a fruit, you can basically tell the species.

The burr oak acorn is large and has a real hairy top, a wild look to it. The black oak produces a deep acorn cap covered with loose outer scales. The red oak's acorn is set in a very shallow cup. White oak is a big seed. Chestnut oak is a very big seed. The pin oak acorn is small with a shallow, saucer-like cup.

Squirrels like to eat beech tree nuts. Although beeches produce every year, they'll have a bumper crop every five to seven years.

Legume



The locusts, *Sophora japonica*, and the Kentucky Coffee Tree are in the legume family. The black locust tree takes 15 to 20 years to mature enough to produce pods, maybe longer because of the city's harsh environment.

I like looking like at a honey locust tree against the winter sky. Its leathery pods look like bats on the tree. That's worth the price of raking them up!

The Kentucky coffee tree's thick, stout pods contain seeds that Southerners used to ground to make coffee.

Naked seed

Generally speaking, the gymnosperms are the evergreens, the ginkgo, and the larch that have cones with naked seeds.The larch's small, scaly, upright cones are attached directly to the branch.

Ginkgo is a fleshy fruit type - fruit surrounding a nut. In that nut, believe it or not, is an embryo of a little baby gingko tree that will germinate under the right conditions.

When a neighbor complains about the fruit and nuts dropping, try to explain the importance, the beauty, and the need for trees in the neighborhood. It's a small price to pay.

Look at the benefits...Raking them up is good for you. And it's an opportunity to meet your neighbors, to have a Green Up, Clean Up and make Kentucky Coffee together.

Germantown Tree Lab under cover for winter

By Kenneth Prater

More than 600 hardwood seedlings are hunkered down for winter at the **Germantown Tree Lab** on a vacant lot on Germantown Avenue. In preparation for winter, high school students from the **Germantown Horticulture Club** covered the potted trees with mulch.

Under a blanket of wood chips and soon the snow, the seedlings await the spring thaw to begin their third year of vigorous growth. When spring comes, we students will move them out of the mulch.

The Germantown Horticulture Club started with students who helped **Urban Tree Connection founder Skip Wiener** care for the first bare-root seedlings donated by the National Arbor Trust in 1994. When Skip left, the Horticultural Club took on the Tree Lab a Wednesday afternoon extracurricular activity.

In the fall of 1995, **Greene Street Friends** students joined in to care for the trees. They distributed more than 200 trees to neighborhood groups and individuals. Eighth grade students transplanted more than 50 seedlings.

Through the YouthWorks '96 summer jobs program, I was one of 10 **Germantown High School** students hired by the School District of Philadelphia to work in the tree lab through the Communities in Schools of Philadelphia program.

Andrew Jickling, a science teacher at the Greene Street Friends School, supervised. At the tree lab we watered, repotted, and pruned, took inventory, and categorized the seedlings according to species.

We would like these young trees either to be planted in a nursery for five to 10 years in preparation for planting in urban settings or in parks or gardens in the Greater Philadelphia Area. However, the lot is for sale so the Tree Lab may be relocated.

At the Tree Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose, Ken Prater watches while Marilynn Taylor and Andrew Jickling talk about puning. Ken and other students volunteer at the Germantown Tree Lab.

Participating at the Tree Lab is a volunteer activity for me. It's interesting as well as useful to the environment. There's always something to learn and something to see.

Working with trees can branch out into a lot of things like landscaping and tour guiding. For the 80th anniversary of the Awbury Arboretum, I was one of guides who took visitors on tours where we identified trees, talked about their functions, and historic uses.

Right now I'm finding ways to knit my interests all together - a little bit of the outside things with trees and indoor things with the computers and graphic design.

Kenneth Prater is a 16-year-old senior at Germantown High School. From Nicetown, he plans to attend college and become a computer programmer.

Grant money brings more trees to East Falls

East Falls Tree Tenders recently received two grants for spring tree work.

The **Philadelphia Urban Partnership** grant through the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will fund tree maintenance along Midvale and Ridge Avenues: e.g. funds will be used to remove five dead trees, replant trees, and resuscitate tree pits for future planting, explained **Marilynn Shaffer**, the group's vice president of grants.

An **America The Beautiful** grant will enable Tree Tenders to contract with a supplier to plant 30 trees next spring for residents requesting them. In the meantime, neighbors will meet with **Julianne Schieffer, Urban Forester Agent for Pennsylvania State University**, to discuss species selection and pest and disease control.

The *Philadelphia Treebune* is a quarterly publication
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Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, PHS, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103.
Deadline for April issue submissions is February 1. Printed on recycled paper.

Arboreal Musings

Winter sculpture

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

Winter is the best time to appreciate the tree's outline against the clear sky. Tree forms fall into six basic categories: pyramidal, globular, ovate, columnar, vase-shaped, and weeping. Like people though, no two trees are the same.

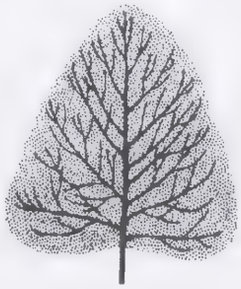
Even within the same species, some trees will take a pyramidal form, others globular, others ovate. The maple species with all its varieties and different shapes is a good example. Any tree's tendency toward form is in the genes but various factors affect growth and structure: location, cultural factors, wind, water requirements, and light.

A walk around Memorial Hall shows that nature takes its own course. Although the American elm is known for being vase-shaped, those near the Horticultural Center are exceptions. Pruned for utility lines or damaged from trucks, their growth seems more ovate.

Dawn redwood, a conifer that drops its leaves, is one example of a triangular-shaped, pyramidal tree. Pine, cedar, and spruce are pyramidal conifers. These species and most evergreens have excurrent growth, referring to their single trunks or to a plant's single stem.

Some, though not many, deciduous trees like black walnut are excurrent and fit well in a landscape.

Decurrent growth means multi-stemmed. Most deciduous trees are decurrent with a nice full canopy that requires room to grow.



Littleleaf linden and the 'Washington' hawthorn with its beautiful red winter berries are deciduous and decurrent with pyramidal form.

Globular form, globose, is spherical - as tall as it is round. The American sycamore, London planetree, callery pear, and beech trees are decurrent and globular. Globular trees such as maples and oaks are fine to plant on wide streets and boulevards with no utility wires and lawn areas.

The ash tree is ovate - narrow at the bottom, wide in the middle, narrow at the top. Pin oaks are kind of ovate. Small ovate and small globular trees like hedge maple and species hawthorn work well on most city streets because they don't cause a maintenance headache as they grow to maturity.

The upright, columnar form of the 'Armstrong' red maple, 'Princeton Sentry' gingko, and the European hornbeam makes a nice tree for a tight space, a small city street like Panama Street, an alleyway.

A true vase shape isn't easy to find. To see a nice stand of vase-shaped *Zelkova* in Fairmount Park, look west at the right turn at the Belmont Plateau. Most elms and *Evodia* have the vase form, like an inverted triangle.

Weeping tree forms, such as cherry, can't be put on the street unless there's a lot of room.

Enjoy a snowy winter day exploring trees on a walk in your neighborhood. We've included some drawings of basic forms and trees for comparison.

In nature, though, one person's ovate maybe another's vase. Although the tree variety may be one form, its structure may alter with pruning or a weak leader. Use your imagination. What do you see?

The Sidewalk Arborist

Bugs 'n spores in the big city

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Let's fast forward some six months. The trees on your block survived winter's ice, snow, and salt. They've leafed out full and green to offer postage-stamp spots of shade.

One summer morning you step out to admire their form, watch the leaves moving in the breeze. Instead, you see suspicious activity. A community of white fluffy critters has set up camp on the underside of fresh new growth.

Put down your coffee cup and take a good look. It's worth accurately identifying just what's going on to make sure the pest doesn't destroy your tree.

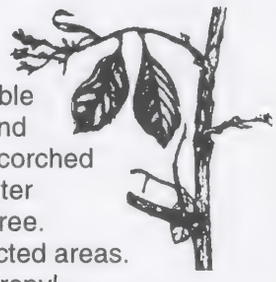
Although not an official 'bug guy,' over the years I've observed that the same urban conditions that challenge the trees' growth place similar hardships on insects and disease (I &D) vectors. Frequently hot, dry, windy, and exposed, the urban ecosystem appears to compromise the habitat necessary for booming populations of destructive aggressors.

So city trees may get a reprieve of sorts when it comes to many forest creatures such as leaf-chompers, stem-wilters, and big fat mushrooms. That said, let's look at diseases and bugs that survive urban stresses to torment city trees.

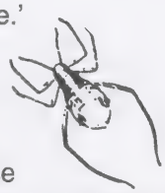
As tree stewards, we can discourage insects and diseases by promoting healthy, less stressful growing conditions through site preparation and thoughtful maintenance and aftercare. As we learn more, we can avoid problems by selecting tree varieties that are insect- and disease-resistant.

Following is an informal assessment of the top I & Ds and trees they are most likely to infect.

Trees, insects, and diseases



Callery pear, especially the 'Redspire' variety, is susceptible to the fireblight disease. Bacteria attack flowers, leaves, and stems, causing the ends of stems and twigs to look as if scorched - blackened, brown, sometimes limp or crispy. Bacteria enter at the growing tips and may travel to the roots, killing the tree. Prune affected branches at least 12 inches below the infected areas. Clean pruners and saws BETWEEN EACH CUT with isopropyl alcohol or a 10 percent chlorine bleach solution (9 parts water/1 part chlorine bleach). Don't plant 'Redspire.'



Linden trees, more often than not, are plagued by aphids that rarely compromise plant health but are exceptional at secreting "honeydew" over the parked automobile. Aphids are tiny, pear-shaped insects that suck plant sap and cause leaf, bud, and flower distortion. They can be different colors, including fluffy white, and may infest most species listed below. For young, recently planted street trees, spritz with a soapy solution of grated brown soap (Fels Naphta) and warm water. If the infestation is a nuisance on mature trees, contact a professional tree care company for service.

Honey locust, vulnerable due in part to monoculture plantings, is under siege from plant bug, midge pod gall, and leaf hopper. Heavy populations munching away can cause early season defoliation. Again, this treatment is probably the domain of a tree care professional.

The **London planetree** population is threatened by canker stain, a distant fungal cousin of Dutch elm disease. Canker spreads quickly, girdling and killing branches and trees. Remove and destroy infected areas. Unsanitized pruning tools do an astonishing job spreading the disease, so disinfect those saws and pruners between each and every cut. Lesser problems include the unsightly but not fatal powdery mildew and anthracnose.

The **Japanese pagoda tree** tends to get twig blight that's usually caused by nectria canker. Pruning infected stems often cleans things up.

Crabapple and **hawthorn** are prone to fireblight and fungal leaf diseases including scab and rust. Choosing resistant varieties is the way to go.

Red oak is prone to a viral complex, known as bacterial leaf scorch, that causes premature browning and leaf drop. The leafhopper is often the transmitting culprit. Stressed trees are more susceptible to infection.

The fabled **Kwanzan cherry** has been dropped from Fairmount Park's list of recommended species because of difficulty controlling white peach scale and prunicola scale. Light infestations are manageable by scouring away the scale with a scrub brush dipped in warm water and brown soap.

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January 1997

Post This who, what, when, where

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS
Training and Information

For more information and to register for these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844.

Thursday and Tuesday
January 9 and 14
6:00 to 9:00 p.m. &
Saturday, January 11
9:30-12:30 a.m.

Tree Tenders for Park Groups
Caring for park trees in conjunction with
Sarah Hoster, Fairmount Park Commission Tree Maintenance Crew Chief
Pennypack Environmental Center
Verree Road at Bloomfield Road
Call Sarah Hoster at 685-8795 or Cindy Perkiss at 988-8843 to register.

Saturday, January 25
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Basic Tree Care Slide Show
with Bel Arbor Tree Tenders
Christ Presbyterian Church, 10th & Kimball Sts.

Wednesday, January 29
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Insects and Diseases Workshop
With Dr. Ann Rhoads, Director of Botany, Morris Arboretum
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., Pa.

Wednesday, February 5
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Adopt-A-School Program Meeting
Call Cindy Perkiss at 988-8843 for more information and to register.

June 1997

Next Tree Tenders' Class

Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 4 • No. 2 • April 1997

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Adopt-A-School Moves Into Spring

by Cindy Perkiss, PHS Outreach Coordinator

Like a spring tonic, the **Tree Tenders' Adopt-A-School Program** is fortifying volunteers to take the lead in educating neighborhood youngsters.

The Adopt-A-School program involves Tree Tenders working with local schools to offer environmental education projects about trees and related subjects.

More than 50 people from neighborhoods, city schools, and **Philadelphia's Department of Recreation** met in February at **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS)** to explore the dynamics of working together and with students.

The energy and real sharing of resources made the evening very exciting. Volunteers really appreciated the opportunities to learn practical, hands-on techniques to engage youngsters in projects.

Tree Tender Kate Loal, who teaches at the **Huey School**, gave participants fascinating ideas and tips to help break the ice during those initial classroom visits. She demonstrated several recycling projects and games to capture students' attention, such as using six-pack beverage rings to make a badminton net.

Volunteers also watched a video that presented step-by-step details about how to do outdoor activities with children.

The program's goal is for Tree Tenders and schools to develop projects together such as nature trails, Arbor Day programs, and tree plantings. Where the Department of Recreation has environmental programs in their communities, Tree Tenders are encouraged to coordinate with them.

The meeting paved the way for a new West Philadelphia connection between Tree Tenders and Department of Recreation staff. **Paul Brooks** of the **Friends of Clark Park** met and talked with **Joe Woodlock, Kingsessing Recreation Center**'s environmental program leader as well as **Josephine Graham** and **Phyllis Walker** of **Community United Rehabilitation Enforcement**.

Continued on page 2, column 3.

Potential participants in PHS' Adopt-A-School Program met in February to discuss how Tree Tenders could work with schools and the Department of Recreation to develop tree-related environmental education programs.

Branching Out

Pennypack Environmental Center Spawns Park Tenders *by Charlotte Kidd*

Surrounded by glistening snow, more than a dozen **Pennypack Park Tenders**' explored their niche of urban forest at a January training.

Hosted by **Fairmount Park Tree Maintenance Crew Chief Sarah Hoster**, Pennypack's first session began and ended with volunteers gathered in the park's environmental center for talk and slide shows. Sarah and **Tree Tender Jason Lubar** also took volunteers into the woods for bark and bud identification and to see park tree problems.

Although it might seem an ideal ecosystem, the urban park undergoes stresses that street trees don't, said Jason, **Friends of the Wissahickon** volunteer coordinator.

Surrounded by intense development, the Pennypack and other Philadelphia parks suffer such problems as light penetration, park users, intrusive trails, dumped debris, invasive plant species, limited wildlife diversity, pollution, and poor understanding in the community and among people who make decisions about the park.

To mitigate the problems, Jason directed park stewards to look to a healthy forest's canopy, understory, and herbaceous layer as a model.

During the brisk park walk, Sarah moved from tree to tree pointing out each species' distinct bark, bud form, and fruit. The locust's deeply furrowed bark, the oaks' differing acorn caps, and the tulip poplar's attractive seed pods were among the clues to the mystery of tree identification.

Friends of the Wissahickon will hold a workshop, **April 18 to 20**, about the urban park in transition. Phone 247-0417 for details.

In Memory

John Griffin, one of the original East Falls Tree Tenders, died in early March.

Known for his easy smile, gentle manner, and constant enthusiasm, John was a stalwart volunteer since attending Tree Tenders' training in October 1995. He will be missed.

"John was a very dear person," said Cynthia Kushinchand, President of East Falls Tree Tenders. "He was happy at any progress we made and was willing to do anything he could."

He last helped during the East Falls' planting of street trees, from Seachange, at McMichael Street and Henry Avenues.

"John definitely took pleasure in being a part of something that was good for the community," she said.

John Griffin and Lloyd Russow on a coffee break during a Saturday morning tree care project on Calumet Street in East Falls in the fall of 1995.

Adopt-A-School (continued)

The next meeting on May 21 from 4 to 6 p.m. will be an opportunity to talk about current projects, discuss Arbor Day and Earth Day programs, plan for summer activities, and begin to lay the groundwork for fall.

Although the Adopt-A-School Program became official last autumn, the concept took shape because several motivated Tree Tenders were determined to share their tree knowledge and enthusiasm with neighborhood school students.

Last year, **Alice Reiff** and **Sue Parks** of **East Falls Tree Tenders** attended PHS's *Planning an Arbor Day Event* training. They piggybacked those suggestions with a timely community memorial to create an unforgettable Arbor Day celebration at McDevitt playground.

This year, the Adopt-A-School Program organizers asks interested Tree Tender groups to pair with a neighborhood school and/or a Department of Recreation Environmental program for at least three activities. These could be classroom activities, Arbor Day events, neighborhood walks, and field trips.

Partners are creating activities that match their interests, resources, and schedules.

The West Philadelphia area Tree Tenders/School partners plan to clean and green up a vacant lot. Powelton partners want to develop a nature trail and a spring vegetable garden. South Philadelphia partners intend to build bird feeders and take field trips to Bel Arbor Tree Nursery and the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum.

PHS provides training for Tree Tenders and teachers, classroom programs, field trips, and tree labs at selected sites. For more details, call Cindy Perkiss at 988-8843 or Mindy Maslin at 988-8844.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Questions and Answers...

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Q. Our Tree Tenders' group received a grant to fertilize street trees on our block that range in age from about 35 years to recently planted saplings. We plan to apply a slow-release 10-10-10 fertilizer because the drip lines are under sidewalks.

If we spread the granules in February, when will they start to decompose? What kind of results can we expect? What changes should we look for?

A. Several basic things to keep in mind for this key tree health care practice:

- Organic matter is the driving force in an effective fertilization program: the more the better. It helps distribute nutrients and improves a soil's ability to break down fertilizer particles.
- Your choice of 10-10-10 is fine, but the formulation should be at least 40 percent organic as a safeguard against "fertilizer burn" from high salt levels.
- Research shows that there is a lot of root development close to the trunk so applying fertilizer in that area is actually effective.
- Fertilizer is for the soil as much as for the tree. It should not force growth but rather add to a plant tissue's integrity by providing adequate nutrients. Darker, shinier green colors and thicker leaves indicate healthy, new growth.
- Finally, keep up with the watering, light cultivation, and mulching. This routine will speed the breakdown of fertilizer granules and encourage a deeper root system.

Q. Should our neighborhood block have a street tree plan for planting and maintaining trees? What are the advantages of such an inventory? How can we get the less interested neighbors involved?

A. Several Tree Tenders' groups who have conducted street tree surveys on their blocks or in their neighborhoods have found them to be a valuable management tool. So, yes, go for it.

Tree Tender Central has easily adaptable sample inventory forms. The information collected includes details such as location of vacant pits, hazardous trees, and predominant species on a given block.

As far as the disinterested neighbor goes, there is no clear-cut strategy. It would be helpful to hear from other Tree Tenders about similar situations and solutions.

One option, however, might be to use his or her treeless frontage as an interpretive exhibit of sidewalk minimalism: the sound of concrete at rest.

The *Philadelphia Treebune*
is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
Editor: Charlotte Kidd,
with editorial assistance from Mindy Maslin and Sally McCabe.
Funding: The William Penn Foundation
Send comments, stories, inquiries to:
Mindy Maslin
PHS
100 N. 20th St.
Phila., PA 19103.
Deadline for July issue submissions is May 1.
Printed on recycled paper.

Q. We'd like to plant an 'Edith Bogue' Southern magnolia as a street tree. What do you think?

A. Interesting idea. I've often wondered why evergreens couldn't be used more often in street locations. Southern magnolia isn't on the Fairmount Park Commission's (FPC) list of approved selections, but your neighborhood FPC arborist might be willing to give it a go. I know of one planting and it's doing quite well.

Hmmmm... Imagine a city block with several of them in full summer flower! A terrific addition to the urban landscape.

Join Tree Tenders on a tour of Philadelphia's Trees

Beginners' Bike Ride

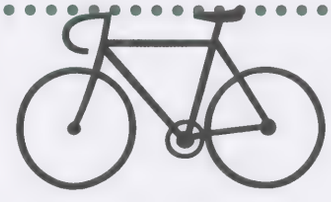
Sunday, April 20

12 noon

Starts at the Bike Bazaar, Fairmount Water Works, and casually winds its way through the city to visit Philadelphia's favorite trees.

Helmets required!

Contact Mindy Maslin at 988-8844 for details.



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Celebrate Arbor Day, April 25
Plant a tree...

Post This who, what, when, where

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS
Training and Information

For more information and to register for these events, contact Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844.

Sundays, April 13, May 18, June 8, July 13, Aug. 10
5:00-7:00 p.m.

Outdoor Tree Tending Workshops at Bel Arbor Tree Farm
Washington Avenue between 10th & 11th Sts.
Call Carla Puppin at 339-0248 for details.

Sunday, April 20
noon- 3:30 p.m.

Beginners' Bike Tour of Philadelphia's Favorite Trees
Bicycle Club of Philadelphia's Bike Bazaar
Fairmount Water Works, Kelly Drive

Wednesday, April 30
6:30-8:30

Tree Tenders' Continuing Education
Solving Conflicts between Trees and Sidewalks by Hal Rosner
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., Pa.

Wednesday, May 21
4:00- 6:00 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Adopt-A-School Program Meeting
Planning Arbor Day programs, summer projects, and fall activities
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., Pa.
Call Cindy Perkiss at 988-8843 for information and to register.

Wednesdays, June 11, 18, 25
6:00- 9:00 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Basic Training
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., Pa.

Saturday, June 21
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Summer Tree Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose
Seachange, 1608 N. Carlisle St.
(Broad and 15th Sts. near Cecile B. Moore Boulevard)

Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 4 • No. 3 • July 1997

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CCD Planting Update ..... p. 6

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Arbor Day from the Heart

By Charlotte Kidd and Cindy Perkiss

The day was gorgeous, the excitement electric. Young reporters, poets, artists, and local dignitaries took center stage at **Ellwood Elementary School**'s Arbor Day Celebration.

This fun and educational success in East Oak Lane reflected five weeks of collaboration among school and community leaders and **Oak Lane Tree Tenders**.

Roving reporters recorded the day's speakers: school principal **Christine Black**, **Fairmount Park District Manager Chris Palmer**, **Oak Lane Civic Action President Phyllis Watts**, **Councilwoman Marian Tasco**, representatives from **State Representative Dwight Evans**' office, teachers **Betty Smith** and **Anthony Nelson** and others.

Continued on page 3, column 1.

Liberty Lands

By Charlotte Kidd

In a grass-roots effort to build a sense of community as well as a park, Northern Liberties volunteers are creating **Liberty Lands**.

The rousing opening ceremony, including ribbon cutting, ground breaking, and tree planting drew about 200 people on April 19.

The project to reclaim two acres of historic industrial property on Third Street recently acquired new energy and funding.

Three years ago, **Northern Liberties Neighbors' Assoc.** (NLNA) purchased the tanning factory site when developers' plans fell through. A property lien stalled plans for improvement so it became a trash and tire dumping ground - until early this spring.

In cooperation with the NLNA, residents **Dennis Haugh**, **Jesse Gardner**, and **Lisa Lippay** applied for and received a $59,000 **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership Grant** (PURP). PURP grants require a 50-50 match of work/materials and partnerships among businesses, neighbors, schools, agencies, churches and the city.

Liberty Lands reflects that community empowerment in all phases - from ideas to design to weekends of sweat equity. In only a few months, volunteers have installed a pergola, planted trees, sited a garden, and are doing historical research about native plants and a hidden stream.

After opening ceremonies, Dennis Haugh, who is Liberty Lands Project Manager, said PURP is progressive in creating connections. It provides "incentives to form a partnership towards a single vision to benefit a whole community," he said.

Project partners include **PHS, Northern Liberties Tree Tenders, U. S. EPA**, **St. John's Church**, **76 Carriage Co.**, **John Bee Plumbing**, **Councilman Frank DiCicco**, **Citizens Action Alliance**, **Paragraph Design, Pearl-Pressman-Liberty Printers**, and **Bodine High School for International Affairs.**

Continued on page 2, column 3.

Besides planting several trees at the opening ceremony in April, Liberty Lands volunteers built garden beds in Northern Liberties.

Branching Out

Tree Tenders' Update

This spring **Whitehall Tree Tenders** used a PURP grant to remove and replace street trees girdled by metal grills along Frankford Avenue's 4700 block.

Tree Tender Carol Vanagaitis and **children from the Carmella Ditizio Playground Clean & Green Play Group** turned the project into a learning activity. The youngsters, who comprise their community's first young tree advocates, evaluated the trees.

Englehart Tree Service saved three damaged trees, removed and replaced several trees, and donated a six-inch caliper maple tree.

Whitehall Tree Tenders including Carol Vanagaitis and children from the Carmella Ditizio Playground Clean & Green Play Group gather around one damaged tree later removed from Frankford Avenue.

C. W. Henry School Tree Tender Steve Donegan reports that the 25 trees the neighborhood planted three and a half years ago in West Mt. Airy are doing fine. Volunteers periodically "get out to trim trees and break up the soil. Apart from cars banging into them, the trees we planted with the America The Beautiful Grant in November 1993 are basically in good shape." The group is talking about writing a grant for tree guards.

Duval Improvement Association Tree Tenders have suffered from attrition so leader **Madeline McGee** has been working solo.

Members have moved or been ill, she said. "We are regrouping. I'm hoping I can get local gardeners interested in tree tending."

Volunteering for the Presidents' Summit in April, Madeline was well-prepared. "I was like a local hero because I had tree tending equipment. On Germantown Avenue, I used the loppers to weed out about 15 saplings."

Washington Square West Tree Tenders were busy this spring feeding neighborhood trees - thanks to a PURP grant via Philadelphia Green. More than 200 people have volunteered, said **Virginia Trosino**.

"We scratch the soil, clean up the tree pit, and broadcast about a cup and a half of 10-10-10 granular fertilizer," she said. For about five weekends, people have pushed the 40-pound bags around in a shopping cart, she explained. "One volunteer has a small wheelbarrow so we just put in the bag."

Last spring, the volunteers planted 10 trees - elm, red maple, golden rain tree, and zelkova, Virginia added. "We're forever pruning and limbing up. Special thanks to **Art Hutchinson**, **Thea Turnage**, **Louise Mockaitis**, and **Allison Weiss** for their constant dedication."

From the **Kensington High School of Science and Technology**, **Kevin Santry** proudly reports that students have been busy in their environmental science classes.

About 30 students, ages 16 to 18, participate in Special Education Environmental Science, he said. Last year their environmental tree lab won second place in PHS's City Garden Contest.

"These children learned core training from their parents and grandparents who came from Puerto Rico or the Southern states where they farmed or gardened," Kevin said. The students' "absolutely fabulous community garden" contains 40 new trees including native beauties they planted last year. The school has added programs with Skip Wiener's Urban Tree Connection and was honored at this year's Philadelphia Flower Show for enhancing the city's horticultural awareness.

Liberty Lands, continued

Watching dozens of adults and children plant trees and measure garden plots, Dennis added: "Seeing this many people actually out here working is a big accomplishment. It's the people coming together that will make a good park work and ensure the park's success over time."

As design facilitator and construction manager, Jesse Gardner harnessed the community's energy, dreams and day-to-day realities to give structure to this "neighborhood central commons."

Through evening meetings, discussions, and on-site design-build activities, the park is evolving to meet the people's needs. "This is really an example of how a beautiful place can be created with people who are not trained to do this," he added. "There's a lot of talent, energy, enthusiasm."

At the Ellwood Elementary School, Fairmount Park District Manager Chris Palmer helps students plant an Arbor Day tree.

Arbor Day from the Heart - continued from p. 1

Besides giving the celebration front-page attention, student reporters had published a preview edition of the '*Kidzette'* newspaper describing Arbor Day events and participants.

"This was the children's celebration. It spoke to them," explained **Oak Lane Tree Tender Kathy Arbour**, event co-coordinator with **Anita Gordon**. "I really appreciate all the guests who helped make this especially appropriate for children."

About 90 kindergarteners and first, second and third grade students participated. Some of the children mulched a red oak tree planted earlier, one of the 25 trees purchased via an **America the Beautiful** grant written by **Charles Philips**.

Students who read poems they had written received tree seedlings from the Oak Lane Tree Tenders.

Tree Tenders served refreshments á la Arbor - apples, coffee, Hershey's Hugs and Kisses, banana chips, maple walnuts, coconut macaroons and apple juice. The celebration was all the better for the refreshments and support from 20 local companies and individuals listed on the event program.

This extensive educational project, organized by Oak Lane Tree Tenders and Ellwood staff and students, is an exciting example of the **Adopt-A-School** program.

The coordination involved organizing the event, presenting class lessons, inviting local dignitaries, writing thank you letters, and seeking donations. They also composed a scrap book with the children's drawings and photographs plus their wishes for a Green Planet.

"This was their first Arbor Day program and it clearly reflected collaboration between the school and the community," said **Cindy Perkiss, PHS project manager** who spoke at the event. "It was a lovely celebration. The kids were excited. This was a personal, unique experience that took a tremendous amount of effort."

Street Tree Care Bill Due for June Vote

By Charlotte Kidd

A City Council vote on **Councilman Michael Nutter**'s legislation on behalf of street trees is expected on June 19.

If passed, Nutter's Street Tree Maintenance Bill would amend the Philadelphia Code section by designating specific work as the purview of the Fairmount Park Commission. The FPC would be responsible for city street tree care including maintenance such as trimming and pruning healthy trees plus removing dead, diseased, or dangerous trees.

At Council's May 15 meeting, the Street Tree bill was read for the second time and amended for final passage, said **Julia Chapman** of Nutter's office.

City administration still has concerns about the fiscal aspects of the bill, she added, so council members and Mayor Ed Rendell's staff continue to discuss those details.

Meanwhile, the councilman has introduced another bill that would transfer funds for the proposed tree care, Julia said. "We're trying to get that bill scheduled for a hearing."

She suggested that people write to the Mayor to let him know they think that tree care is a high priority.

PHS outreach coordinator Mindy Maslin and **Tree Tenders Larry Dichter, Rita Fitzgerald, Alexis Franklin**, **Cynthia Kishinchand**, **Alice** and **Jack Reiff**, and **Jackie Wright** were among those testifying on behalf of the bill presented at the April public hearing.

Other advocates who spoke included **Bob Gutowski** of the **Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**, **Germantown High School students**, and **Sayre Middle School students** and teacher **Nance Kearns**.

Arbor Month Celebrations

The second annual Arbor Day in East Falls was a student and community celebration. Youngsters, seniors, and Tree Tenders enjoyed a delightful day.

Students and teacher Jackie Popielarski of the Drew School in Powelton Village get ready to celebrate Arbor Day with Fairmount Park Commission arborist Gus Jardel.

Arbor celebrations in Philadelphia were as unique and diverse as the city's neighborhoods and the volunteer Tree Tenders' areas of interest.

Powelton Village

April in Powelton Village was a month-long Arbor fête.

At the tot lot near the **Powel Elementary School**, **Powelton Village Tree Tender Marilynn Taylor**, **Fairmount Park Arborist Gus Jardel**, and **Sarah Labov's fourth graders** held a dedication ceremony for a newly planted dawn redwood on April 22.

"Gus and I talked about what trees give us and Gus read his brother's poem about trees," Marilynn said. "The children weeded and planted marigolds around the tree. They're committed to adopting the redwood and two sawtooth oaks so I made a contract for each child to sign."

PHS donated kid-sized gloves, tools, and the marigolds, Marilynn reported. "This is the first activity we've done at Powel. We look forward to doing more tree education in classrooms there."

At the neighborhood's **Drew School**, Marilynn and Gus took **Jackie Popielarski's second graders** to visit the tree lab at the **Community Education Center** and the tree nursery at the **Summer/Winter Garden**. Time didn't permit them to tend four trees they planted during for Arbor Day last year, so they returned in late May to weed and mulch.

Jackie's class adopted eight saplings on the school grounds. This spring, Lancaster Avenue will get a boost when her students plant seed-grown annual flowers in tree pits.

Across the years

In an intergenerational outreach, seniors and students shared Arbor Day activities at the **Ralston House** on Chestnut Street in West Philadelphia.

More than 100 people from **New Ralson House**, **Southwest Community Enrichment Center**, and **Haddington Senior Center** joined students from **Powel School**, **Drew School** and **Shaw Middle School**. The seniors and students exchanged roles, showing each other how to do crafts, said Tree Tender and event organizer **Beverly Agard**.

"Everybody was really inspired," Beverly added. Marilynn Taylor, **Barbara Sewell**, **Marion Kierter**, and **Maggie Funderburg** assisted. **Joe Revlock** posted signs indicating the ages of the handsome, long-lived trees on the grounds.

In a ceremony, **Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Moureey**, **Director of the Institute on Aging**, dedicated the two Carolina silverbell trees planted by the FPC. Powel students entertained with songs.

Meredith School students did rubbings, read, and played games for Arbor Day.

City Parks

Roxborough Tree Tenders celebrated more than Arbor Day on Saturday, May 3. Their community's **Gorgas Park** was one of six parks that PHS will support through its **Parks Revitalization Program**, thanks to funding from the **William Penn Foundation**.

Although the air was chilly, Gorgas buzzed with activity. At the park's Ridge Avenue entrance, adults and children turned soil, planted annuals, and layered mulch below the park sign.

Parents and children selected special spots in which to plant trees purchased from **SeaChange**, a nursery on North Carlisle Street. Boy Scout leader **Roger O'Brien**, son **Michael**, and scout **Mark Foester** were among those digging holes and pulling tree roots out of containers.

"We chose this spot because we used to live right across the street," explained **Kathy O'Brien** as she watched the tree planting.

Besides Gorgas, five additional city parks were chosen for revitalization: **Carroll Park** and **Black Oak (Malcolm X) Park** in West Philadelphia, **Elmwood Park** in the Southwest, **Wissinoming Park**, and **Fairhill Square** in North Philadelphia. They'll receive technical and design expertise, fund-raising information, community-building assistance, and other PHS services.

"They went through a rigorous selection process," said **Maitreyi Roy**, **PHS Project Manager**. "All these groups are energetic and active. Everyone's looking forward to getting started."

South Philadelphia

Even though the sky was cloudy, there were smiles all around **Meredith Elementary School** at Fifth and Fitzwater Streets.

Kindergarteners and **Bel Arbor Tree Tenders** enjoyed a delightful Arbor program on April 24.

Thanks to organizers **Carla Puppin** and **Lin Munich**, youngsters took turns at a variety of activities. They made tree-stamp art, leaf stationery, bark rubbings, and a tree mural. They played 'If a tree could talk, what would it say' and took a Book Browse with Nature.

Students also investigated objects from trees such as pine cones and a bird's nest.

At Gorgas Park in Roxborough, families planted trees to celebrate Arbor Day. More than 200 adults and children worked and played in the park on May 3.

Northwest Philadelphia

Philadelphia Green founder **Ernesta Ballard** was the honored guest at East Falls Arbor Day by the River on April 25, said **Cynthia Kushinchand**, president of **East Falls Tree Tenders**.

"We tried to tie Arbor Day programs in to the Presidents' Summit," Cynthia added. "We gave an award to Ernesta for her years of volunteerism."

About 180 children from **Thomas Mifflin**, **St. Bridget** and **William Penn Charter Schools**, Tree Tenders, seniors, and neighborhood volunteers enjoyed this second annual ceremony at **Inn Yard Park**. They sang, recited poems, and performed a Native American circle dance to the chant "The Earth is Our Mother."

Tree Tenders donated the book *City Green* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan to each of the nine participating teachers.

"The schools are really starved for materials," Cynthia said. "With the Adopt-A-School Program, we are going to try to help them anyway we can."

Teachers **Joan McAlvaine** of Penn Charter, **Sharon Foster** of Mifflin School, with **Rita Dicicco** and **Sister Betty** of St. Bridget's helped coordinate the day.

At McDevitt Playground

In a separate Arbor event, East Falls Tree Tenders also honored the late William "Doc" Dougherty with a tree planting ceremony at the **McDevitt Playground** on April 19.

Philadelphia Green and the William Penn Foundation contributed funds for the tree. John Spino Jr. and Doc's friends purchased the memorial stone set at the dedication. This public celebration was held in conjunction with **East Falls Sports Association**'s Opening Day Ceremonies.

Guest Arborist

Fossil Fuel

By Gus Jardel, Arborist, Fairmount Park Commission

Let me tell you about this friend who lives on my buddy Ian's farm in Montgomery County. He's been around longer than I can remember, probably since about 1784 or so.

He's the biggest male *Ginkgo biloba* tree I've ever laid eyes (and hands) on. He's thought to be one of the first four trees brought to the United States by William Hamilton, one of John Bartram's neighbors. This ginkgo lives on property once owned by the Wistar family.

The last I heard, he is the state champion ginkgo. He shares his home with the state champion sweet gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and some state champion rivals - burr oak, *Franklinia*, juniper, and the biggest stand of bottlebrush buckeye I've seen.

This champion ginkgo has five leaders. The buttress leader alone is 38 inches in diameter so it's hard to get an overall diameter-at-breast-height. Above the buttress limbs though, it measures 58 inches around. The crown spread is more than 80 feet. And height exceeds 120 feet. The basal flare tapes out at 82 inches in diameter.

Fairmount Park arborist Gus Jardel demonstrates tree climbing at Cobbs Creek Park.

Besides being a handsome devil, he has other neat attributes. The *Ginkgo biloba* is a living fossil, on earth for 150 million years.

And the ginkgo is medically valuable. A guy from Sumter, South Carolina, visited twice to take cuttings for medicinal purposes. Seems there's a business in growing and shearing ginkgos like shrubs. The leaves are shipped to Ireland for processing into a drug used as an anti-senility agent. Ginkgos contain a compound that thins blood and is one of the world's leading pharmaceuticals.

Who doesn't know about the stinky fruit of the female ginkgo?

Once you get it past your nose, the nut is delicious. To prepare ginkgo nuts, first remove the outer pulp by scrubbing them under water in a bucket. Wear rubber gloves! Besides its distinct smell, ginkgo pulp and leaves irritate some people's skin.

Parboil the nuts until the shells pop open some. Let them dry on a newspaper for a couple of hours. Then fry the shelled nuts in your favorite oil or add to soup, etc.

By the way, climbing this living fossil is as easy as falling off a log. When you get to where the sparrows land, the view is top-notch.

*To introduce additional Tree Resource people, we will alternate Walt Stankus' **Arboreal Musings** column with contributions from various tree experts. Walt will be back for the next issue.*

Center City District Tree Planting Update

By Nancy O'Donnell, PHS Project Manager

Visitors to Center City are enjoying the new trees planted during Phase I of the **Center City District** (CCD) streetscape improvements.

As reported in the January 1997 *Philadelphia Treebune*, the project involves innovative techniques. Trees were planted in trenches with aeration and watering pipes.

Rather than backfilling with the usual soil mix, the design team used 60 percent stone and 40 percent soil and organic materials. The mix provides air and nutrients and is strong enough to hold cement pavers.

East Side, West Side

This system worked well on most trenches east of Broad Street. Some west side trenches had paving failures due to previously unknown conditions - light wells, coal chutes, and lateral utilities - below and beside the trenches.

Except for using prohibitively expensive Sonar sounding, the design team had no way to identify these voids before the trenches were dug. Apparently, after the trees were planted and the soil compacted, the weight slowly forced soil mix into surrounding areas, causing the paving surface to slump.

Trench Rehab

To correct the problem, an additional concrete slab was poured between the trees and the sidewalk pavers were replaced on top.

Mark Focht, director, CCD Capital Projects, explained: "We decided to take the long-range solution. We know we can water the trees from the tubes.

Continued on page 7, column 1.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Conflicts: Big and Small

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Yo Philly! All this time we been saying 'street trees' even though many city trees spend their lives on city **sidewalks**.

Through no fault of their own, big trees are the culprits in cracking and heaving sidewalks. From a public relations standpoint, that can be a big "stumbling block" (pardon me) to enriching urban forests. Residents hold to the perception of "those big dirty trees that drop all kinds of junk and breakup my sidewalk."

We know tree roots grow wherever water, oxygen, and nutrients are in good supply. Urban soil rarely offers all three, so roots go searching for a better life. Unfortunately, that's usually at the tree pit surface or in the gap between soil and sidewalk. This migration can mark the beginning of the sidewalk/tree conflict.

Two Types of Conflicts: Big and Small

When a sidewalk cracks or begins to heave, people feel badly. An unsightly tripping hazard may pop up, followed by a warning from the insurance company: "Fix the sidewalk or we'll cancel your homeowner's policy."

The repair can be extensive and costly. An arborist evaluates each conflict situation on a case-by-case basis. Solutions range from minor repair to root pruning and major sidewalk overhaul. If decay is detected, complete tree removal may be the answer.

In a major eruption where one or more sidewalk panels are raised, the remedy is likely to involve removing concrete and inspecting and treating the root system. The newly exposed root system may be pruned or shaved with a saw or grinder.

On-site evaluation is invaluable, particularly if a creative solution is needed. Usually root work can't be completely judged until the sidewalk is removed. So it's important to work with contractors who are sensitive to tree/sidewalk cohabitation and the tree's survival.

Often, sidewalk problems can be solved through creatively placing materials such as woodchips, flagstone, brick pavers, or crushed stone (pH neutral, please.) Sometimes partial excavation exposes the top of the main buttress root.

It's usually the smaller interferences that rile people. Luckily, the small lifts between sidewalk panels are easily repaired or patched with a small batch of cement or cold-patch asphalt. This "mini-ramp," though not perfect, might appease cranky neighbors or insurance reps. These repairs are short-term because trees will continue to grow.

Among arborists, opinions vary as to which species are more or less likely to cause sidewalk upheaval. Red maples and various oaks seem most likely to cause problems.

We shouldn't be surprised by the emerging buttress root flares of big trees. As the roots widen, the flare actually 'rises' out of the ground.

Site assessment **before** planting is a wise move. Consider the species. How big will the tree be in 15 or 20 years? How large will the pit be? Is the soil heavy clay or a well-draining mix of rubble?

Gathering this information today will reduce the sidewalk conflicts of tomorrow.

The sun was shining, the trees leafing out as about 25 bicyclers rode from the Fairmount Water Works to Bartram's Gardens, visiting Philadelphia's notable trees on Sunday, April 20.

CCD Tree Planting (continued)

We think this adjustment won't compromise the ability of the roots to get what they need. Meanwhile, the slab will provide a solid walking surface, an essential element of any successful streetscape."

Phase II

The construction method will be modified for Phase II. After pits are dug, filter fabric will be laid to completely enclose the soil mix. That way if any leaks develop, the new mix will stay within this sausage-like casing. The concrete slab between trees will be insurance against slumping.

A number of parking lot edge plantings are also included in Phase II. These granite-curbed, raised beds about 5 feet wide will contain multi-stemmed trees and groundcovers. They are designed to screen cars and provide greenery to the pedestrian environment.

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The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
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5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
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July 1997

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SPRING HIGHLIGHTS Training and Information

Thursday, July 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Twilight Tree Trek
Fairmount Park along the Wissahickon Creek
Blue Bell Hill in Germantown
Starting at Mindy Maslin's home
On a one- to two-mile hike along the Wissahickon, walkers will see native and invasive plant species and experience the park's wonders.
Light refreshments will be served.

For more information and to register, RSVP by July 15 to Cheryl at 988-8845.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.
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Philadelphia *Treebune*

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 4 • No. 4 • November 1997

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At the June Picnic with a Purpose at Sea Change, PHS' Janet Carter and a young Tree Tender mulch container-grown trees.

Sea Change Hosts Picnic with a Purpose

With its thriving tree nursery and organic garden plots, **Sea Change Resource Center** in North Philadelphia was a delightful spot for this June's Picnic with a Purpose.

"People had a ball," said **Sea Change President Rosalind Johnson**. "We broke up into classes to learn about pruning trees and container-grown trees. Then we walked over to Yorktown Park and planted a golden rain tree which gave the people a hands-on experience. Afterwards, we had a cookout."

About 40 Tree Tenders and their families attended, Rosalind added. "It was exciting for the Sea Change group. We had not just the community but people from all over the city talking. They shared their vision and ideas for trees and their communities."

Sea Change is a community development corporation dedicated to sustainable development. Their focus is to take urban green spaces and use them in productive ways. Besides offering garden plots and a shareholders' program, Sea Change include training for horticulture and agricultural careers. It encourages food self-sufficiency in the community by helping people raise healthy crops for income as well as feeding their families.

From their state-certified nursery of 160 trees, Sea Change sells trees to community organizations, churches and community groups. They also use them in their own landscape design work. For more information, phone Sea Change at 978-5930.

We Welcome Marcella Nixon, New PG Outreach Coordinator

Marcella Nixon recently joined **Philadelphia Green** to supervise Youth in Community Activities, including the **Tree Tenders' Adopt-A-School** program.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University's Agricultural Sciences program, she has a background in environmental sciences, horticulture, and youth development programs.

At the Penn State Extension in Pittsburgh, Marcella designed "Teens For Green," in which teenage gang members learned to plant trees, earn money, and contribute to the community.

The 10-20-30 Formula for Urban Tree Planting

To protect the urban forest against "new" pests and outbreaks of "old" pests, Frank Santamour, Jr. of the U.S. National Arboretum recommends having:

No more than 10% of any single tree species;
No more than 20% of any tree genus;
No more than 30% of species in any tree family.

Branching Out

Young Cyclist Donates Winnings for Trees

Thanks to young **Gavin Lotz Kaiser**, **Powelton Village Tree Tenders** have a bigger budget.

As CoreStates Time Trials winner, 10-year-old Gavin won $100 for his favorite cause. He chose to donate the money for trees in his West Philadelphia neighborhood.

Gavin earned second place in the Midget Boys Amateur Bike Challenge this July. He is a student at Benchmark School in Media.

"Last year, me and my mom planted a tree together on Lancaster Avenue," Gavin explained. "Then my mom decided to be a Tree Tender. Since I got the $100, I decided to donate that to tending trees."

Gavin Lotz Kaiser of Powelton Village in a winning moment after placing second in the CoreStates Amateur Bike Challenge.

"Gavin helped plant elms at the community garden too," ." said his mother **Connie Lotz**, a Tree Tender with the **Powelton Village Civic Association**. "He really likes trees."

How To Spot A Tree Tender..

You're probably a Tree Tender if:

- you carry pruners at all times.
- you jump from a car in traffic to pull mulch away from a tree trunk.
- you can't resist tugging to check ties that support new saplings.
- your chest expands two sizes when you wear a Tree Tender T-shirt.

Have you noticed any special qualities among your Tree Tender friends? Anyone submitting an example we publish will receive a Tree Tender bumper sticker.
So call or send your observations to Charlotte at 482-0642.

People Behind the Scenes in Kensington South

By Tom Lederer, Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tender

While Tree Tenders are out there going to meetings and taking the training, our successful projects often depend on a dedicated, less recognized few.

In **Kensington South**, we have two fellows, **Danny Crawford** and **Art Skill,** who do just about everything for us.

Our neighborhood has a children's garden that takes an enormous amount of work. Danny's right there and he does it. He keeps an eye on our tree nurseries, the Shakespearean garden, and the hedgerow garden. Danny works on them all. Give him a job to do and it gets done.

Art Skill is the stalwart who gets the job done in our adult garden. He's there every day

Most volunteer programs have people like that. We're fortunate to have that kind of quiet help.

This summer we had a chance to transplant some donated trees from Salem Harbor in Bucks County. Danny found someone to lend us a flatbed truck. Then Danny, another neighborhood fellow, and I drove up to get them.

Before we went, Danny had watered our native tree nursery. When we came home, he watered the children's garden.

Art and Danny are so good; you don't see them but you enjoy the fruits of their hard work.

We'd like to hear from other Tree Tenders about people who've gone 'above and beyond the call' in their communities. Let us know so we can put them in the spotlight.

Danny Crawford and Tom Lederer discuss the Children's Garden in Kensington South.

Pot-in-Pot Tree Nursery at Center in the Park

by Carl Haefner, PHS Project Coordinator, Tree Program

Center in the Park, a senior citizen program next to **Vernon Park**, has become a place where people grow trees to beautify Germantown.

With support from the **William Penn Foundation** and **PHS' Philadelphia Green**, Center staff and members plus six teenagers from **Youth Works** started this tree farm in Germantown last summer.

Under the direction of **Jean Holland**, **special projects coordinator** for Center in the Park, the teens helped prepare the site and planted about 40 trees in containers.

With the help of **Herman Penacek** of **Sycamore Lane Nursery**, the trees were planted using a new technique called pot-in-pot.

Access to healthy soil is the greatest challenge to growing trees in an urban tree nursery. Clay and debris in city lots often make it impossible to grow trees in the ground without improving or replacing the existing soil.

Planting nursery trees in containers is less expensive and time-consuming than amending city soil and digging trees for transplant.

Growing trees in containers also has its problems. Roots tend to reach through drainage holes into surrounding soil or mulch. Large trees tend to tip over in the wind. The pot-in-pot method helps solve these difficulties.

With pot-in-pot, the growing container is inserted into another container of the same size that serves as a holder.

First, the holding pot is buried with the rim a few inches above ground level. Then a sapling is planted in the growing container that's slipped into the holding pot.

After a few years, the tree is ready to be removed for permanent planting. It's easy to lift the tree and growing pot out of the holding pot, then slip in a new sapling.

For good drainage at Center in the Park, a sloping trench was lined with gravel and landscape fabric to promote drainage. Then the pots were placed in the trench. Finally, the trench was backfilled with soil.

The **Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania** donated some trees. Others were purchased from the **Native Plant Nursery** at **Temple University's** Ambler campus.

During the growing season, Center and community volunteers monitored the trees daily. Watering is done via an irrigation system.

Volunteering here is an opportunity to learn about greening our city To help or learn more about the tree farm, contact **Jean** at Center in the Park, (215) 848-7722.

Street Tree Law Passed Effective January 1

This summer **City Council** passed the street tree maintenance and removal ordinance sponsored by **Councilman Michael Nutter**.

The law, which reconfirms maintenance by the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC), is scheduled to become effective on January 1, 1998.

Although previously designated as responsible for tree maintenance and removal, the FPC has reduced services due to severe budget cuts.

Mayor Ed Rendell supported City Council's action by promising $1.0 million for street tree planting, maintenance, and removal from January to June 1998. Additional funding is yet to be determined.

Copies of the ordinance are available Nutter's City Hall office. Phone 686-3416 for information.

1997 Philadelphia Tree Tenders' List

District One

1. **East Falls Tree Tenders**, Cynthia Kishinchand 849-2474
2. **Impact Services**, Phyllis Martino 739-1600
3. **Kensington North Tree Tenders**, Zoa Schisler 423-1025
4. **Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council Tree Tenders**, Tom Lederer 634-6330
5. **North Philadelphia East Tree Tenders,** William Perez 232-8806
6. **Rainbow Park for the Arts**, Iman Kahanab 425-1356
7. **Trees for Tomorrow**, Michael Blackie 425-8933
8. **Village of the Arts and Humanities**, Inja Coates 225-7830
9. **2400 Block East Dauphin**, Lynn Shain 425-1302

District Two

10. **Asian Americans United**, Lisa Yau 952-1538
11. **Beau Gardens**, Mark Moncavage 627-4218
12. **Bookworms**, Cynthia Olds 629-1337
13. **Bel Arbor/Kimball Street Common Garden,** Julie Snell 627-9537
14. **Fairmount Parents, Business, Neighbors Assoc.**, Rose Marie Pasicznyk 236-2671
15. **Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center Tree Tenders,** Ed Grusheski 592-4908
16. **Fitler Square Tree Tenders**, Trudy Kuehner 545-6599
17. **Friends of Cianfrani Park**, Roxanne Galeota 829-0582
18. **Friends of Eastern State Penitentiary**, Marie Holman, 566-5463
19. **Friends of Seger Park**, Mary Seton Corboy 922-7911
20. **Gaskill/Bainbridge Tree Tenders,** Henry Hauptfuhrer 925-2696
21. **Kater Street**, Marsha Canfield 592-1614
22. **Liberty Lands**, Janet Finegar 627-4633
23. **Logan Square Assoc.**, Wylie Garcia 568-4745
24. **Norris Square**, Iris Brown 634-2227
25. **Northern Liberties Tree Tenders**, Sara Olsen 922-6732
26. **Passyunk Tree Tenders**, Andrea Krupp 463-8215
27. **Pigs Alley Committee**, Bill Gannotta 236-9619
28. **1600 Mt. Vernon Tree Tenders**, Bill Jenkins 765-8484
29. **Society Hill Civic Assoc.,** Jean Bodine 627-8393
30. **South Philadelphia Tree Tenders**, Anna Maria Vona 336-3154
31. **The Philadelphian Apartments Tree Tenders**, Molly Albert 763-8311
32. **2100 Fitzwater Garden Committee**, Kathy Garvin 546-6455
33. **Urban Gardeners**, Maureen O'Hara 560-4167
34. **Washington Square West**, Virginia Trosino 625-2599
35. **Women's Community Revitalization Project**, Syreeta Bennett 627-5550 x226
36. **Young Men Inc.**, Myron Reddy 232-7303

District Three

37. **Awbury Arboretum**, Tom Mishler 849-2855
38. **Coulter Street Meeting**, Rebecca Schneider 438-3012
39. **Central Roxborough Civic Association**, Jill Schneider 483-2952
40. **C.W. Henry School**, Steve Donegan 232-5459
41. **Duval Improvement Assoc. Tree Tenders**, Madeline McGee 848-0565
42. **Friends of Queen Lane Station**, Nanci Harmon 848-2854
43. **Germantown Greene**, Ruthe Yaskin 844-2328
44. **Houston Tree Tenders**, Risa Jordan 741-4243
45. **Oaklane Tree Tenders**, Charles Phillips 232-9793
46. **Olney Tumbling Team**, Daisy Cintron 924-4917
47. **Penn-Knox Neighborhood Organization Tree Tenders**, Tina LeCoff 844-2188
48. **Pulaski-Roberts Gateway Project**, Nick Roush 848-5741
49. **Roxborough Tree Tenders**, John Boyce 487-3725
50. **Schuyler Street Tree Tenders**, Tony Mauro 844-7328
51. **Seachange Resource Center/CDC**, Jacqui DeShields 978-5930
52. **Wayne-Hannsberry Community Garden**, Al Ford, 849-1331
53. **West Mt. Airy Tree Tenders**, Gayle Koster 248-4909
54. **Wissahickon Neighbors Civic Assoc.**, Larry Stearns 483-0958
55. **Wissahickon Stewardship Program**, Jason Lubar 242-2059

and Resources

District Four

56. **Belmont Community Gardens**, Rasheedah Hyman 222-7192
57. **Cross Baltimore Tree Tenders**, Johanna Fine 724-4517
58. **Friends of Clark Park**, Paul Brooks 222-5339
59. **Habitat For Humanity**, Frank Console & Sean Toner 477-4639
60. **Larsage Neighbors**, John Scott 747-3117
61. **Mantua Green Tree Tenders**, Beverly Lawrence 222-7852
62. **Point Breeze Tree Tenders**, Mamie Nichols 334-2666
63. **Powelton Village Civic Assoc.**, Marilynn Taylor 386-2240
64. **Regent Square Tree Tenders**, Naomi Segal 222-4453
65. **6200 Ellsworth Street**, John Steptoe, 472-2120
66. **Spruce Hill Community Assoc. Tree Tenders**, Amanda Benner 222-3835
67. **The Over-The-Hill Gang**, Jacquelyn Wright 727-1693
68. **Wynnefield Residents Assoc.**, Skip Wiener 877-7203

District Five

69. **Friends of Fox Chase Farm**, Jim Kates 686-2354
70. **Whitehall Tree Tenders**, Carol Vanagaitis 535-5301

New Jersey

71. **Collingswood Horticultural Society**, Gayle Reedy 609-854-3592

Fairmount Park Commission

Park Manager:	Walt Stankus	215/685-0107
District Arborists:		
***District One**, North Philadelphia*	Mike Helsen	215/685-0108
***District Two**, Center City & South*	Rich Sunday	215/685-1837
***District Three**, Northwest Philadelphia*	Ernie Barile	215/685-2577
***District Four**, West & Southwest*	Gus Jardel	610/352-8644
***District Five**, Northeast Philadelphia*	Charles Patton	215/685-8795
Tree Maintenance Crew Chief	Sarah Hoster	215/685-8795

Resources

Mindy Maslin, Project Manager, PHS	215/988-8844
Charlotte Kidd, Philadelphia Treebune Editor	215/482-0642
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania Plant Clinic Ext. 141	215/247-5777
Pennsylvania One-Call System Call Before You Dig	1/800/242-1776
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society	215/988-8800
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Hotline Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. till noon	215/988-8777
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Library Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.	
Fairmount Park Recycling Center, Ford Road Monday through Saturday, 7:30 a.m. till 3:00 p.m.	215/685-0109

To do before the Big Freeze

- Enjoy a stroll through Philadelphia's distinctive collections of street trees. See page 7 for suggestions from our Sidewalk Arborist.
- Check your neighborhood for 'hazardous' trees before an accident occurs and winter storms come rolling in. See Arboreal Musings on page 6 for tips. For problems with street and park trees, contact your Fairmount Park district arborist at the phone number listed above. For trees on private property, consult a certified arborist.
- Autumn is the time to cultivate mulch that compacted in the tree pit during the summer. Also carefully pull away mulch that's accumulated around the tree trunk base. Otherwise the mulch promotes trunk rot and gives insects and rodents a comfy nesting spot. Re-form mulch into a donut-like mound at least 8 inches beyond the trunk base to act as a water basin.
- Water new transplants regularly and deeply until the first hard freeze. During winter thaws, treat young saplings to deep waterings to help them survive until spring.
- Stock up on calcium chloride, magnesium chloride or potassium chloride to melt ice and snow on sidewalks near trees and gardens. Or sprinkle slippery spots with sand, cat litter or bird food for traction. The commonly used melting salt, sodium chloride, isn't healthy for plants. Salt damage shows up in spring when new leaves turn yellow before dying.

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Director of Publications: Jean Byrne

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Arboreal Musings

Fascinating but Hazardous

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

A twisted trunk or an overgrown scar may make some trees fascinating; unfortunately they can also make them unsafe.

The term 'hazardous' tree was coined several years ago to help prevent accidents.

To be classified as hazardous, a tree has to meet two conditions. It must have something wrong with it. The problems that foreshadow tree 'failure' include dead wood, a crack, cavity, 'widow-maker,' canker, weak branch union, and root damage.

The second condition is a 'target,' which is someone or thing a falling tree could injure or damage: e.g. a person, picnic table, playground, car, swing set, or house. Sometimes it's easy to remove the target. Where that's not practical, the solution rests with the tree.

Trees normally don't fail but there's always that chance. To be on the safe side, inspect your trees twice a year. Signs of problems usually appear before a tree falls.

Winter is a good time for a careful inspection because you can see a tree's bark and branches better.

First, look at the tree's overall condition. Trees in good shape have flowers, leaves, no diseases. Consider the variety too; some are weak-wooded or subject to insects or diseases.

A tree's age and size are factors. People think that a tree lasts forever. A tree is a living thing with a finite life. Sometimes you're able to get more years out of a declining tree, but usually it's better to remove a potential hazard.

If you find a problem, it's best to consult a certified arborist about pruning or complete removal.

For street trees and park trees, contact your Fairmount Park district arborist listed on page 5.

Deadwood

Look for dead wood; it's anything that doesn't have a bud or leaf on it. It's dry and brittle, not green or flexible in the wind. It's natural for trees to have some dead wood. They're always shedding branches so light can enter the canopy to benefit new branches and leaves.

Dead wood is unpredictable. A branch can come down anytime causing injury and damage. Dead wood should be pruned out. A Tree Tender may clip away small, low-hanging branches. But a professional arborist should be called to remove limbs four to five inches around or larger.

The bigger the dead area, the more dangerous it is. If a tree has more than three-quarters to half dead wood, it's probably dying. Consult with a professional arborist to determine why that tree is dying and to have it removed.

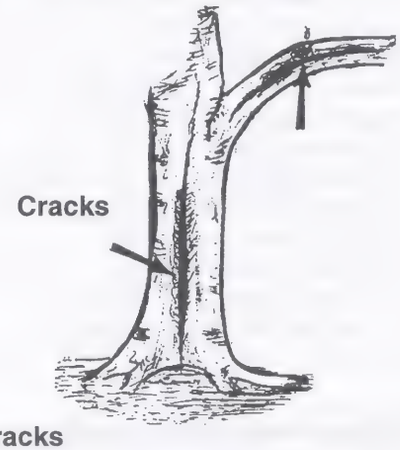
'Widow-maker'

A 'widow-maker' or 'hanger' is a loose branch caught in the canopy. Remove it immediately. When a 'hanger' falls, its weight can bring lower branches down too.

Cavities

Cavities are holes mostly in the heartwood as well as the sapwood. Sometimes decayed heartwood isn't obvious because a tree rots from the inside out. A tree's heartwood may be completely rotted while its sapwood is strong enough to keep the tree standing.

Not all cavities are dangerous but they all should be looked at carefully. Those filled with funky stuff like sawdust, insects, fungus, rotted wood, etc. should be inspected by a certified arborist who may remove the dead material. Do not fill cavities with cement.



Cracks

Cracks on the trunk can form up and down the trunk, at a branch connection, or at the base of a double leader. If the crack is big enough for you to put your finger inside, that's a potential hazard.

As the tree grows more weighty, the crack enlarges. A certified arborist may choose to brace and cable, prune to remove weight, or completely remove the hazard.

Weak branch union

A weak branch union occurs when the bark's cork cells, rather than healthy wood, grow around a branch connection. Prune when the branch is small and the tree is young.

Canker

Caused by diseases or insects, canker can be an open, soft, sunken, portion of disintegrating bark. The bark is easily lifted or broken away, leaving punky, rotted stuff. If canker reaches halfway around the trunk, have an arborist remove the tree.

Continued on page 7.

The Sidewalk Arborist

Street Tree Collections Worth a Visit

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Curbside trees dress up our city streets to form a kind of linear arboretum. Lined-out on neighborhood blocks, trees are more about function than design. Arboretums, though, usually group their collection by species such as maples, oaks, pines, etc. Some informal street tree collections are worthy to behold as "blocks" or "groupings."

As city travelers, Tree Tenders see it all. I'm always amazed at their reports-like the bald cypress planting on Market Street or a funky 'pitscape' in Swampoodle in North Philly. A single block may be home to a fine collection of hawthorns or a singular expansive *Maakia chinensis* or towering dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*).

For several years I've kept a homemade, ragged, little book with me as I navigate Metro Philly. In it I note the curious, the oddball, and the sweetly mundane of the 'hort-universe.' An early entry reads simply "Upper Darby—block of horsechestnuts." Hmmm... that's vague enough. Was this a splendid block? Or was it a dream?

Let me share a few of the great tree blocks I've run across. Of course, we welcome your finds as well. This tour is willy-nilly at best and shows just how surprising and diverse our metro region can be.

Good luck on your journey.

• In **North Philadelphia**, the 3300 Block of North Bouvier Street holds the distinction of being one of the first blocks planted by Philadelphia Green. Since 1978, neighbors have carefully tended their 'Summershade' Norway maples. The block radiates pride. Take a look. You'll see the power of trees and concerned neighbors.

• I described the 2500 South Colorado Street in **South Philadelphia** in my column in November 1994. It's still one of the finest; the European lindens create a network of nimble, arching limbs that form a classic cathedral allée over the street.

• Also in **South Philadelphia**, the Girard Estates section has remnants of a classic American elm collection. It starts in the 2300 block of South 21st Street and includes the locally famous school yard elm at the corner of Snyder Avenue and Dorrance Street.

• In **East Mount Airy** on Vernon Street near Chew Street is a truly novel planting of Chinese Toon Tree. Elmlike in appearance, the trees are tall and graceful. Their leaves look like ailanthus of all things. The emerging leaf buds taste oniony and are supposedly added to soups and stir fries.

• In **West Philadelphia,** neighbors on the unit block of North Felton Street annually prune their linden trees for a tidy and formal effect. The look is further enhanced by trunks painted white.

• In the **Northeast**, the Chinese elm trees growing around the PECO power station at Longshore and Penway Streets deserve a look. Their mottled, exfoliating bark reveals pale green and brown coloring.

• Just outside the city, in the **Laverock** section of Springfield Township off Willow Grove Avenue, Kentucky coffee trees line Froebal Road. Their dark, deeply furrowed branches are striking, particularly against the winter sky.

And finally, what about those horsechestnuts in **Upper Darby**? It had been years since I'd noticed them - until a recent hot August afternoon. They stand right off West Chester Pike on Larchwood Avenue - on the left if you're heading out of the city. They form a big hearty row, all seemingly in good health.

Arboreal Musings, continued

Borers

Sap or sawdust seeping from holes may be a sign of borers. To kill the insects, thread a coat hanger inside the hole and twist it around.

Root damage

Soil and roots mounding on one side of a tree can mean the rootball is heaving. The trunk may tilt rather than stand upright. Winds can finish the job, pulling the loose roots out of the ground and felling the tree.

Construction, plumbing, curb, driveway, grading, or sidewalk work can sever a nearby tree's supporting and feeder roots. Check the root ball. And keep an eye on the canopy for leaf and branch damage within a few weeks or even a year. If one side of the tree dies or is stunted, there's probably root damage.

To protect a tree before construction, establish a barrier at or beyond the tree's drip line.

Even if a tree has to be removed for its health or general safety, you can plant another in its place.

Philadelphia Treebune
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street
5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

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WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Training and Information

Tuesday, November 18
5:00-6:00 p.m. **Tree Tenders' Continuing Education**
6:00-8:00 p.m. **Tour of older trees at the Morris Arboretum**
Caring for Older Trees Workshop
Rich Orth, chief arborist of the Morris Arboretum,
will present the special needs and guidelines for care of older trees.
Light refreshments will be served.
Activities will be at the Widener Building, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, 100 Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia.
For directions, call 215/247-5777.
RSVP to Cheryl at 215/988-8845.

Sunday, December 14
2:00-5:00 p.m. **Winter Tree Walk in the Wissahickon**
Starting at Blue Bell Hill, we'll admire trees in their winter splendor.
Followed by light refreshments
RSVP to Mindy at 215/988-8844.

Philadelphia *Treebune*

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 5 • No. 1 • January 1998

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The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** a quarterly publication of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.

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Editorial direction: Mindy Maslin
Director of Publications: Jean Byrne

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Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103.

Deadline for submissions to the April issue is January 24; July/August issue is April 25.

Printed on recycled paper.

Photo by Mindy Maslin

Pig Alley Tree Tender Kerry Forbes (left) and Dan Rhoton of the Snyderville Community Development Corp. were among many who transplanted saplings from the Bel Arbor Tree Nursery to their neighborhoods.

Bel Arbor Negotiates Five-Year Lease

By Charlotte Kidd

Tree Tenders know the Bel Arbor Tree Nursery as a source of city-worthy saplings for greening projects.

Last fall the nursery organizers, **Bel Arbor, Inc.**, put the finishing touches on successful negotiations that reflect their concerned community as well a developers' interests.

The coalition of neighbors, including Tree Tenders, convinced property owner Leonard Thylan and CVS to forfeit excess parking space for a tree nursery.

The five-year lease agreement took nine months of talks, proposals, and counter-offers, explained **Tree Tender Carla Pippin**, president of Bel Arbor Inc.

"Property owner Thylan and CVS saw that we're a community that cares," Carla said. "We presented ourselves as a reasonable group of people with legitimate concerns. We also presented a viable project that's good for our community...At every stage of the way we had professional plans and talented people who contributed to the success of the negotiations."

About 40 people kept community interests at the forefront: Carla, **Larry Lindsey**, 14 Bel Arbor, Inc. volunteers including **Julie Snell**, **Rebecca Williamson**, **Dan Shapiro**, and **Rev. Phil Gittings**, **Kimble Street** residents, **10th Street** neighbors, and **Bella Vista Neighbors**.

Councilman Frank DiCicco "was crucial to continuing negotiations and keeping the lines of communication open," Carla said. She also gave credit to CVS, Thylan, and his attorney Richard Goldstein.

The Bel Arbor project began two years ago with concerned neighbors regularly cleaning up the short-dumping debris at Washington Street between 10th and 11th. With **Philadelphia Green**'s help, they established a temporary tree nursery at the property owner's discretion.

The newly prepared nursery east of the CVS will hold about 60 trees.

Continued, page 2

Branching Out

After a long afternoon clearing the slope at Shurs Lane and Terrace Street, Central Roxborough Civic Association Tree Tenders planted two trees from the Bel Arbor Tree Nursery.

Photo by Charlotte Kidd

New and Veteran Tree Tenders in Action

Being a Tree Tender is one way of "instilling neighborhood pride," said **Fred Ross**, a **Central Roxborough Civic Association** member who completed last fall's Tree Tender Training. "I've always been fascinated with trees. I planted them with my father while growing up and the experience never left me."

At the corner of Shurs Lane and Terrace Street, Fred and new Tree Tenders **Jill Schneider**, **Laura** and **Glen Johnson**, and **Kevin** and **Jane Smith** planted their first saplings from the Bel Arbor Tree Nursery. Other neighbors helped spruce up the slope called Albert Otto Edling Park.

In West Philadelphia, **The Over-the-Hill Gang** of Tree Tenders has rounded up a **Junior Posse** of youngsters who meet on weekends to learn about trees. "The kids enjoy it," said **Jacquelyn Wright**, PHS outreach intern who lives in the Posse's neighborhood. "It's something constructive for them to do. Before we had the training for juniors, the kids would swing on the trees. Now they don't do that."

Unrolling a colorful, impressive 'Tree Plan' of action at September's PG training, **Pig Alley Tree Tenders** set their bar high. Following through in the Fairmount area, they've "tackled the lot at 23rd Street," said **Kerry Forbes**. "We planted two trees and have done a general pruning project in the neighborhood. In preparation for a grant, we're doing a survey of all the trees and creating a map with the Visio computer diagram and database program."

Congratulations to the **East Falls Tree Tenders** for being nominated by the **National Arbor Day Foundation** for the Arbor Day Celebration Award. East Falls Tree Tender president **Cynthia Kishinchand** reported that the foundation recognized last April's exceptional Arbor Day programs at the Inn Yard and the McDevitt Playground. They were organized by **Sue Park** and **Alice Reiff**. According to PHS project manager Mindy Maslin, East Falls Tree Tenders are the first Tree Tender group to be so nominated.

East Falls also was awarded a $2,000 grant from the Philadelphia Activities Fund, Inc. The funds will be used for tree planting and educational programs for elementary school students at St. Bridget's, Thomas Mifflin, and Wiliam Penn Charter schools as part of Philadelphia Green's Adopt-A-School program.

Bel Arbor - continued

Soil Preparation

The nursery spot began as typical urban land: poor subsoil full of broken bricks, stones, and other debris. It also was covered with concrete that CVS offered to remove.

The rough city soil conditions would have made it difficult to remove the saplings for other projects in three years. "The big issue is digging the trees out again for transplant," said PHS project coordinator **Carl Haefner**.

Philadelphia Green prepared the nursery bed by trenching then adding amended soil mix to a two-foot depth.

"We worked with what was available," Carl added. " We separated debris from the subsoil. CVS contractors donated some top soil and left some remainder mix. We amended that with organic matter - one part leaf mold to two parts soil."

The nursery includes a tree lab plus a specimen area for experimental tree species, perennials, and wildflowers. The tree lab, about 20 feet by 120 feet, holds about 40 tried and true urban species: e.g., hedge maple, golden raintree, and crab apple.

Experimental species such as flowering ash, Turkish filbert, oak, and more will grow in the specimen area, 20 feet by 30 feet, to monitor their adaptation to urban stress.

PG also prepared a 90-foot-long mounded berm for flowering species behind CVS.

April is Arbor Month!

For help organizing a community/school program or to volunteer for an Arbor Day celebration, call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844.

And the Tree Tender of the Year Is...

By Mindy Maslin

We're looking for anyone who's gone the extra mile as a Tree Tender. How about you or someone you know? We're also searching for the Tree Tenders' group that deserves an extra round of applause.

Awards categories follow. Feel free to create your own.

Tree Tenders' Group of the Year
New Tree Tenders' Group of the Year
Tree Tender of the Year
Best Adopt-A-School Partnership
Best Arbor Day Program

Send nominations including a descriptive paragraph to Mindy Maslin, PHS, 5th floor, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., 19103 by June 5, 1998. Enclose a photo if possible. Awards will be presented at the 1998 Tree Tender Picnic with a Purpose on June 13.

Harding Middle School Tree Lab Turns Six

The **Warren G. Harding Middle School** tree lab on Torresdale Avenue is celebrating its sixth anniversary, reports **Carol Vanagaitis, Whitehall Tree Tender**.

Harding teacher **Maryanne Webb** and about 25 earth science students "cleaned, weeded, planted bulbs, and transplanted seven *Amur* maples from Bel Arbor onto school grounds," Carol said. "Those boys and girls pulled that lab back into top condition after summer recess."

Carol, one of the original Tree Tenders from four years ago, picked up the maples at Bel Arbor's "Picnic with a Purpose" in November.

She was one of about 50 volunteers who helped Bel Arbor reduce its inventory and move transplants to the new tree nursery nearby. Volunteers received saplings for street tree projects, community development corporations, parks, and gardens.

Huey Students at Pennypack Trust

By Jeff Tober, PHS Intern

Recently I received letters of appreciation from **Kate Loal**'s fifth graders at the **Huey Elementary School** in West Philadelphia.

They wrote their thanks for a day of environmental exploration in the woods and fields of **Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust** in Huntington Valley.

On Pennypack's 500-plus acres, we hiked, looked for birds, saw deer and a snake, had a picnic lunch, and an impromptu jam session on the bus ride home.

> Dear Mr. Jeff,
> I enjoyed the trip to Pennypack Watershed. I especially liked seeing the horses at the pond. I also liked finding that snake and three caterpillars.
> Well anyway I just wanted to say thank you...
> Michelle Lawrence

> Dear Mr. Jeff,
> I had fun at Pennypack Watershed. You and all the staff were very nice...
> I had a "great" and I mean great time at Pennypack Watershed. Thank you for showing me things I never saw before.
> Lasha Reid
> 404 Huey School

These 60 students heartily deserved a day in the country. They've been working hard at the **Malcolm X Memorial Park** across from their school. They've cleaned up the park for a school picnic and helped at weekend workdays.

For information about PHS' Adopt-A-School Program, call Marcella Nixon at 988-8843.

Worms Make the Smithsonian Gardens Bloom

By Charlotte Kidd

The gardens surrounding the **Smithsonian Institution** in Washington, D.C. have a subterranean secret.

To keep the beds in blooming health since 1989, the horticultural staff has added cores of compost enriched with earth worms.

The formal parterre is an elaborate, shallow rooftop garden averaging a mere two feet deep, explained **Nancy Bechtol**, chief, Smithsonian's Horticulture Services Division.

Perennials, shrubs, and trees died in the site's original fill of Potomac River silt and a smidgen of top soil, Nancy added. To enrich the poor growing medium, the staff experimented with the coring process developed by James Patterson, a National Park Service soil scientist.

"We've certainly had great success. The worms have tilled the soil," Nancy told those attending the Landscaping Under Stress workshop at the Morris Arboretum.

The gardens are above portions of the National Museum of African Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

Community Volunteer Projects

Fairmount Park Commission's Community Volunteer Maintenance Program

By Nancy A. Goldenberg, Program Administrator, Fairmount Park Natural Lands Restoration and Environmental Education Program

With its woodlands, streams, ponds, lakes, meadows, and wetlands, **Fairmount Park** is often the first and sometimes only experience many Philadelphians have with nature.

The seven watershed parks within the 8,900-acre Fairmount Park system offer respite from city environments. Our parks also can teach important social lessons about communities, residents, and interdependence.

As a living laboratory for children and adults, Fairmount Park provides a unique opportunity to build awareness and appreciation of nature among many who may become lifelong advocates for the environment.

Since the mid-1880s, volunteers have served Philadelphia's parks in growing numbers. With 75 Friends' groups, Fairmount Park's citizen service program is a national model.

Now through its **Natural Lands Restoration and Environmental Education Program** (**NLREEP**), Fairmount Park has an unprecedented opportunity to build an even greater constituency for community stewardship.

Funded by the William Penn Foundation, NLREEP is a five-year initiative to restore the natural areas in seven city parks and build a constituency for their protection through environmental education and community involvement.

Stream valleys, woodlands, and wetlands will be restored by stemming erosion, removing invasive vegetation, planting new trees, repairing trails, and stabilizing stream banks.

Six new or expanded environmental resource centers will be developed. They'll provide a variety of educational programs for visitors.

The **Community Volunteer Maintenance** effort is integral to NLREEP. Community residents, students, members of civic and business associations may be stewards through volunteer projects in their watersheds.

Supervised by NLREEP's volunteer manager and assisted by Fairmount Park Commission staff and natural science professionals, volunteers will learn and use ecologically sound practices to preserve and monitor our natural environment.

For more information about volunteering with NLREEP, contact **Nancy Smith-Fagan** at 215/877-0894.

Gorgas Park: The Jewel of Roxborough

By Charlotte Kidd

Only a year ago the cause of complaint, **Roxborough's Gorgas Park** on Ridge Avenue now sparkles with community pride.

Last year, **Tree Tender John Boyce** and several Roxborough residents were determined to clean up, even beautify the highly visible, yet severely neglected Gorgas Park.

With a strong track record and photogenic plan in hand, John submitted Gorgas Park as a winning candidate for **PHS' Parks Revitalization Initiative**.

Since then the park's been on the fast track to becoming the 'Jewel of Roxborough.' The **Friends of Gorgas Park** kicked off the spring with an Arbor Day festival. They wrapped up a busy season with hundreds of adults and children enjoying the delightful September Harvest Fest.

Cows in Gorgas Park were just one of the many attractions at last September's Harvest Fest on Ridge Avenue in Roxborough.

Photo by Peter Brown

Besides John, **Cricket Brien**, **Jack** and **Melissa Frost**, **Gene Rambo**, **Mark Miller**, **Mike Sweeney**, and **Sandy** and **John Yannatel** are the 'Friends' who've given Gorgas Park its shine.

Throughout the summer and fall, the Friends met to plan as well as show some muscle. Every Wednesday night they worked in the park—picking up trash, cleaning out rain gutters, sweeping, leaf raking, mowing—whatever needed to be done. Many neighbors took the hint, grabbed tools, and joined them.

"The community group has taken over the park's turf care with PHS-purchased equipment," said **Marcy BonDurant**, PHS project coordinator.

The Friends also recently hosted 15 neighborhood children for **Art In The Park** in cooperation with PHS and the city **Recreation Department's Mural Arts Program**, Marcy added.

At Your Service

The McLean Library of PHS: A *Tree*mendous Resource

by Janet Evans, PHS Librarian

Roam through the forest of books at the **McLean Library** of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 20th and Arch Streets. Learn more about your favorite trees whether they're on your street or in a park.

The McLean Library houses hundreds of books about trees as well as a variety of videos, magazines, and CD-ROMs.

Need some assistance? Our friendly staff will guide you through the collection, suggesting the best works to consult. Our Horticultural Hotline volunteers at 215/988-8777 will gladly answer your questions about tree care.

We've already blazed a trail for you by offering the following selections. We've included our favorite books and useful websites.

McLean Library
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street
215/988-8772

Visiting hours:
Monday-Friday;
9:00am-5:00pm

Horticultural Hotline:
215/988-8777

24-hour Web site:
http://www.libertynet.org/phs/library97.html

Especially for Tree Tenders: reference books from McLean Library

Pests and Diseases

Trish Hanson, *Field Guide to Common Insect Pests of Urban Trees in the Northeast* (1996).
Warren T. Johnson, *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs* (1991).
Wayne A. Sinclair, et. al. *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs* (1987).

Trees

Michael Dirr, *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs; an illustrated encyclopedia* (1997)
Michael Dirr, *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: their identification, ornamental characteristics, culture, propagation and uses* (1990).
William H. Frederick, Jr., *100 Great Garden Plants* (1975).
Henry D. Gerhold, et. al., eds. *Street Tree Factsheets* (1993).
Jacqueline Heriteau, *The National Arboretum Book of Outstanding Garden Plants* (1990).
Gary L. Hightshoe, *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Urban and Rural America; a planting design manual for environmental designers* (1988).
Hui-lin Li, *Trees of Pennsylvania the Atlantic States and the Lake States* (1972).
Janet M. Poor, ed. *Plants That Merit Attention; Volume I - Trees* (1984).
Alex H. Shigo, *Modern Arboriculture: A Systems Approach to the Care of Trees and Their Associates* (1991).
Alex H. Shigo, *A New Tree Biology Dictionary: Terms, Topics, and Treatments for Trees and Their Problems and Proper Care* (1986).
Alex H. Shigo, *A New Tree Biology: Facts, Photos, and Philosophies on Trees and Their Problems and Proper Care* (1986).
Alex H. Shigo, *Tree Biology and Tree Care Photo Guide* (1987).
Alex H. Shigo, *Tree Pruning: A Worldwide Photo Guide* (1989).
George W. D. Symonds, *The Tree Identification Book; a new method for the practical identification and recognition of trees* (1958).
William Trelease, *Winter Botany; an identification guide to native trees and shrubs* (1931).
D. M. Van Gelderen, *Conifers; the illustrated encyclopedia* (1996).

Useful Websites about Trees

http://www.nascc.org/green.html
From the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC). This site includes a 'Tools for Community Greening' page with links to information such as the illustrated *Albany Service Corps Street Tree Maintenance Training Manual* including street tree care; and 'Creating Community Gardens,' a handbook about developing community gardens.

http://www.nascc.org/intlinks.html
NASCC also assembled a page of 'Internet Tools for Environmental Service' that links to community greening Web sites.

http://ag.arizona.edu/~bradleyl/acga
The American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) homepage points to many websites dealing with urban gardening and community stewardship.

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January 1998

Post This who, what, when, where

WINTER and SPRING HIGHLIGHTS Training and Information

Wednesday, January 21
3:30-5:30 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Adopt-A-School Program
For more information, call Marcella Nixon at 215/988-8843.

Sunday, March 1 to
Sunday, March 8

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's
Philadelphia Flower Show
Pennsylvania Convention Center
To volunteer, call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844.

Sunday, April 19
12 noon- 3:30 p.m.

Bicycle Ride to Historic Trees in Philadelphia
An easy, 15-mile bicycle tour of memorable city trees.
Organized in conjunction with the Bicycle Club of Philadelphia's Annual Bike Bazaar.
Meet at the Fairmount Water Works on Aquarium Drive, northwest of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Kelly Drive.
Helmets required!

Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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Nominate Your Favorite Tender p. 6

Volunteers
would be appreciated at
Arbor Day Park Events
during the week of
Sat., April 18 to Fri., April 24.
Programs for school students and the community will be held at various city parks. For details, call Mindy at 988-8844.

Awbury's Trainees Find That Trees Are Cool

By Charlotte Kidd

The **Awbury Arboretum** grounds in Germantown form a dynamic classroom for a unique **Landscape Training Program**.

In overgrown stands of brush, workers saw off branches for better visibility. In other spots, they pull out invasive species so native plants can survive. Every day on this 55-acre site is busy; the results are immediate and attractive.

The program's broad goal is job placement for disadvantaged adults. For a year, men and women from the Stop and Recover rehabilitation program in North Philadelphia develop work skills through classes and on-the-job training. Besides studying plant care, they learn how to operate mowers, chain saws, wood chippers, and a small loader.

The **Philadelphia Green Tree Tenders**' training was an integral part of the crew's extensive, on-the-job training program, said **Tom Mishler, executive director of Awbury Awburetum**. Tom is a former project manager for The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green program.

"The trainees really took to it," Tom said. "Tree Tenders gave them their first feeling for the importance of trees in the landscape. I'd say they gained a tremendous amount of basic skill. It made them feel competent. It was a really good kickoff to their work here."

The experience also "plugged them into this network of tree lovers," added Tom. "Through Tree Tenders, I think they perceived that trees are cool."

Tree Tenders Dave Cooper, 'Brother Joe' Craddock, Jim Halloway, and **James 'J. J.' Jones** were among those graduating in February. Trainees have gotten jobs at the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, Friends' Hospital, and in private industry. Two are seeking internships at public gardens.

"We've learned a lot from this first year and a half ," Tom said. "We're starting the program's next phase in March 1998." The William Penn Foundation provided the start-up funds. "We're in partnership now with the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, the Wagner Free Institute of Science, Private Industry Council, and Morris Arboretum."

"Awbury's mission is to be an educational place for our community," Tom added. "It's a green anchor that helps preserve the community's stability. I think that's what Tree Tending is all about - preserving communities through preserving our green assets."

You're invited to the Fourth Annual

Summer Tree Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose

Saturday, June 13
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tree care tips, hands-on education
Bring a covered dish to share.
Call Mindy at 988-8844 for information and directions.

at the Awbury Arboretum, Washington Lane between Chew Avenue and Ardleigh Street

Branching Out

New and Veteran Tree Tenders in Action

Inspired by their fall training, new **Tree Tenders** of **Wayne-Hannsbury Community Garden** in Germantown formed an **Adopt-A-School** program with **John B. Kelly Elementary School.** Their first project was a joint tree planting with Kelly students and community volunteers in November.

"Everybody in the school wanted to be involved, so they took a few kids from each class," said **Al Ford**. Al is a veteran Tree Tender who enjoyed retaking the training with a community group closer to his home.

About 70 youngsters from grades one through four planted three flowering trees and 50 bulbs in front of Kelly School. As Junior Tree Tenders, the students intend to care for the trees. Plans include starting a 4-H Club that would offer gardening and tree planting workshops.

Wayne-Hannsbury Tree Tenders Kathleen Schatz, **Rita Dockery**, and **Sheila Laney**, **Pulaski-Roberts Gateway Project Tree Tenders**, volunteers **Ed Hartman**, **Gina White,** and **Terry Stearns** organized the event.

In several fall projects, **East Falls Tree Tenders** planted 37 saplings at Centennial Grove as well as along Ridge and Midvale Avenues, reports **Tree Tender Cynthia Kishinchand**.

In Centennial Grove at Kelly Drive and Midvale Avenue, **Tree Tenders Nancy Pontone, Keith Shively, and Tom Williams** planted two Cornelian dogwoods. At **St. Bridget's School, Tree Tenders Alice Reiff** and **Hal Rosner** introduced tree care and planting to **Lois Bilkin**'s fourth graders. Together they planted seven lacebark elms along Midvale and Ridge Avenues, thanks to a joint grant from **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society** and **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership**.

Wrapping up work on last year's **America The Beautiful** grant, Keith, Tom, **Joan Stanton, Fairmount Park Commission's Walt Stankus**, and the **East Falls Community Council** coordinated resources to plant 20 new trees along local streets. Hats off to those noted above plus **Dennis Bilger**, **Alexis Franklin**, **Jessica Krow**, **Councilman Michael Nutter**, **Sue Park**, and **Marilyn Shaffer** for their support in 1997.

Years ago, members of the **Wissahickon Neighbors Civic Association** began beautifying their Northwest Philadelphia community between Shurs Lane, Ridge Avenue, Henry Avenue and Main Street. As newly trained Tree Tenders, they have found new allies.

"We've gotten good cooperation through **City Councilman Michael Nutter**'s office in getting trees," said **Tree Tender Forest Aegiano**. Yet many neighbors who recall problems such as heaved sidewalks are reluctant to have trees replaced. To educate residents, Wissahickon Tree Tenders have been telling them about the value and importance of selecting tree varieties appropriate for city planting.

Combining energy with the **Central Roxborough Tree Tenders**, they planted four saplings from the **Bel Arbor Tree Nursery** and conducted weekend pruning projects. And they're in the middle of doing a tree inventory coordinated by **Tree Tender Laura Moorhead**.

Tree Tenders Will Boehm, Glen Johnson, Fred Ross, Bill Sawicki, and John Studdy also are up to their shovels in reclaiming two areas of neglected green space-a narrow curbside spot and one large city lot.

Oak Lane Uses Grants

The "big news is that in December, nearly all 25 trees we received from **America the Beautiful** (ABA) were planted in the neighborhood," said **Charles Philips** of the **Oak Lane Tree Tenders**, an **Oak Lane Community Action Association** committee.

As its matching contribution, the **Fairmount Park Commission** (FPC) administered the contract to supply and plant crabapple, zelkova, red oak, hawthorn, hedge maple and little leaf linden trees on several blocks from Broad to Fifth streets and Cheltenham to Godfrey Avenues.

"In February, we had the first house meeting with neighbors where two trees were planted," Charles added. "We have planned other house meetings partly to educate homeowners about the tree care needed, to involve more people in the program, and to raise money. We raised about $450 of our $850 match. If everyone will pitch in $5, then we'll make it."

Oak Lane received the ABA grant last spring, just in time to sponsor an outstanding Arbor Day program and classroom activities at **Elwood Elementary School**.

Work also is underway through a $10,000 grant, "Making Way for New Trees," from the **Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership** (PURP), Charles added. Two large, dangerous, and dead London planes were removed in February, to the neighbors' relief. "The neighbors were part of the push," said Charles. "The trees are damaging their cars!"

All told, 20 hazardous or dead trees will be removed and 10 new trees will be planted. (10 via PURP funds; 10 removals and 10 replacements through the FPC match).

Since training in June 1996, Oak Lane Tree Tenders have gained in numbers and community support. The group has 30 core volunteers and 150 people on its mailing list.

Post This who, what, when, where

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Activities, Training, and Information

Saturday, April 18
9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Street Tree Planting Demonstration
Baltimore Avenue In Bloom: a Phila.Urban Resources Partnership Project
Cedar Point Park at 46th St. and Baltimore Ave.
To register or for details, call Pat Gillespie at 387-3783 (evenings).
Concrete Cutting Demonstration in early April; date to be announced.
Call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844 for details.

Friday, June 5

Deadline for Nominating "Tree Tenders of the Year"
See address page for details.

Sunday, April 19
12 noon

Third Annual Bike Ride of Philadelphia's Unique Trees
Beginners welcome on this slowly paced, less than 20-mile tour.
Begins at the gate to the Fairmount Waterworks,
behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art at Kelly Drive.
Helmets required. Call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844.

Thursday, May 14

Urban Stresses Slide Presentation
Borders Books, 8701 Germantown Avenue, Chestnut Hill.

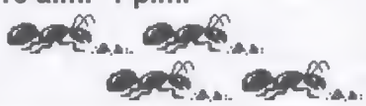
Wednesdays, May 6 & 13
4 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Training For Teachers
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., PA
Call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844 for details.

Wednesdays, June 3, 10 & 17
6 p.m.- 9 p.m.
Saturday, June 13; 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

June Tree Tenders' Training
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., PA
Call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844 for details.

Saturday, June 13
10 a.m. -1 p.m.



Fourth Annual Summer Tree Tenders' Picnic with a Purpose
Pot luck dishes to share, tree care activities, and hands-on learning
Awbury Arboretum in Germantown, Walnut Lane
between Chew Avenue and Ardleigh Street
Call Mindy Maslin at 215/988-8844 for more information.

For the Best Arbor Day Ever! *by Marcella L. Nixon, PHS Outreach Department*

An Arbor Day event, small or large, offers children and adults the opportunity to view trees and the environment with a sense of ownership and community pride.

When J. Sterling Morton first officially proclaimed Arbor Day in 1827, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska. Now Arbor Day is celebrated in 50 states on the last Friday in April.

The following tips may be helpful when planning a large Arbor Day program or a basic ceremony.

1. **Why do you want to have an Arbor Day program?** To plant more trees, build community awareness and partnerships, help schools comply with the state mandate for Arbor Day celebration, or encourage people to work on a environmental project such as park cleaning?

2. **What kind of event do you want to hold?** It could be a large-scale, public program with group and individual activities such as potting tree seedlings, face painting, food, music, arts and crafts, reusing recycled materials, and playing environmental games. A basic ceremony might include a welcome from the school principal or a community leader, a history of Arbor Day, and children reading their own tree poems.

3. **How can you include the children from planning to cleanup?** Whatever the program size, involve children from the beginning. Older children often enjoy organizing and running events for younger kids. Do they want to plant a tree to adopt year-round? Would they enjoy creating a skit, lesson, or game to show what trees need to survive and what conditions injure or kill them?

4. **How can you make it an event to remember?** Although an educational moment, any memorable Arbor Day program is packed full of fun. For more details, contact Marcella Nixon at 215-988-8843.

Trees: Healthy or Stressed

From a presentation by Lisa Blum, Instructor, Temple University, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture.

Plants tell you what's going on, if you just look at them, Lisa Blum told attendees of the **Landscaping for Stress** workshop at the **Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania** last fall.

"A healthy tree has the resources to fight disease and pests," Lisa explained. On the other hand, a tree under stress is less able to withstand invading insects and harmful microorganisms. Stress symptoms are visible signs that a tree is in trouble.

Plant Basics

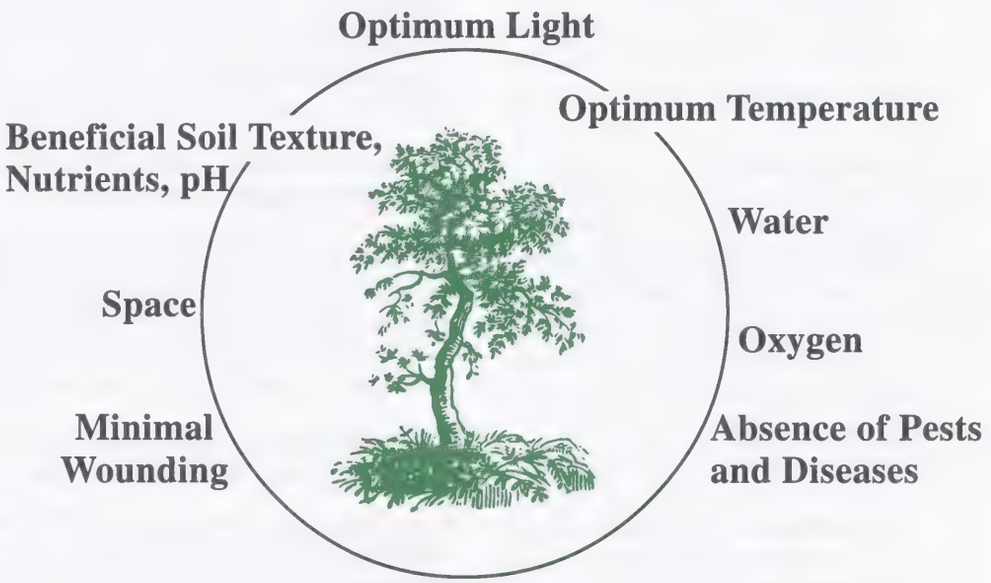
To be healthy, a tree requires an entire system of interrelated conditions: water; optimum light; beneficial soil texture, nutrients, and pH; space; oxygen; optimum temperature; minimal wounding; absence of pests, diseases, and toxic substances.

Water is "the life force of the plant," Lisa added. "Trees need water to produce food through photosynthesis." Too little or too much water, root injury, deicing salts, fertilizers, and soil grade change can seriously hinder or damage the water uptake process. The result is often fatal; a long, slow death in a mature tree.

Roots need oxygen and space to do their work. They usually spread horizontally rather than deeply. Besides anchoring the plant, they absorb water and nutrients that travel through the xylem and phloem.

Roots also can be a source of trouble. By acting as an "underground railway," they can pass on diseases such as bacterial leaf scorch, canker stain, and dutch elm disease when grafting to each other.

Lisa Blum will be an instructor at this June's Tree Tenders' training. A plant pathologist and consultant, she has her own firm, Ginkgo Diagnostics, and lectures in the region.



Plant Basics
Interrelated and connected conditions a plant requires to avoid stress

Stress Indicators

Symptoms of stress can be varied and vague; they indicate different degrees of a tree's stress. The causes of stress are complex. Tree stewards who spot stress symptoms need to be investigators. One symptom may have a variety of causes. Finding **the** cause is a process of elimination. Following is a list of symptoms and possible causes.

Generally speaking, many problems can be solved by good tree maintenance: installing tree protection, irrigating, pruning, and mulching. For difficult problems, consult a tree care specialist or Fairmount Park arborist.

Top Ten List of Stress Symptoms

1. Stunting: reduced tree growth and reduced size.
2. Paleness or chlorosis (yellow, drab leaf color) shows poor food production.
3. Early fall leaf color in June or July signals early dormancy.
4. Scorch signified by brown leaves may indicate lack of water, dehydration from deicing salts, and/or restricted root space. Unseasonable defoliation is a stress reaction. "If you're stressed, traumatized, and you're a plant, you drop your leaves!" Lisa said.
5. Leaf wilt or droop may mean water isn't reaching the plant's top.
6. Dieback refers to the tops of branches slowly dying back to the trunk.
7. Canker results from mechanical injury, pests, and/or diseases.
8. Dead (necrotic) tissue.
9. Mushrooms, conchs, and bracts are secondary problems. They grow on dead tissue, so a tree in decline is the perfect host.
10. Sucker growth is the "last cry" of help before trees succumb.

Spring into a Street Tree Inventory

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

A friend recently shared some ginkgo stories with me. "I think our 'male' ginkgos are in the midst of a sex change," she said. "After 20 years some of them are starting to bear fruit. They're just incredible!"

(That increasing phenomenon is a future article, folks!)

She added that one ginkgo, particularly hard hit by vandals, managed to grow a new band of callous tissue over a six-inch band of girdled bark.

I was struck by how well my friend seemed to know her neighborhood trees. Like many active community Tree Tenders, she's participated in many tree plantings.

But did she know how many trees had been planted and how they are doing today? Have they all survived? How many prospective planting sites are in neighborhood? These types of questions can be answered with a systematic tree inventory.

Even if Tree Tenders have done a survey, it's important to expand and update the details periodically.

Doing a tree inventory is **the** perfect activity for Arbor Month. Consider including an inventory in your Arbor Day green-up day along with maintenance such as dead limb or stub removal, pruning, soil cultivation, and fertilization.

An inventory can focus on a single block if need be, or can cover the neighborhood or community at large. Inventory data are particularly helpful in setting goals such as "Our neighborhood is committed to planting 20 new trees a year."

Street tree inventories typically are compiled using the house number and street for location. The most common and practical information includes each tree listed by species, trunk diameter at chest height, estimated height, and general health or condition. Including vacant tree pits and dead trees can help tree stewards plan for future projects.

Some block organizations pay particular attention to tree pit and sidewalk conditions.

With older mature trees, a visual survey may help spot large dead limbs, or broken or hanging branches that pose a safety hazard. Trunk decay, mushrooming fungal growth, and piles of sawdust are other clues to declining trees that could pose hazardous conditions.

For further evaluation, the tree committee can call a Fairmount Park arborist at 685-0106 or private tree care firm.

Street Tree Inventory

Location:
- House number
- Street

Common and practical street tree information:
- Tree species
- Trunk diameter at chest height
- Estimated height
- General tree health or tree condition
- Vacant tree pits
- Dead trees

For older mature trees:
- Large dead limbs,
- Broken or hanging branches
- Trunk decay
- Mushrooming fungal growth
- Piles of sawdust

Tree pit and sidewalk conditions:
- Sidewalk upheaval
- Tree pits in need of additional mulch, soil, or organic matter

Watch Out for "Pirate" Tree Crews! *by Hal Rosner*

This spring has had its share of trees on public property damaged by "pirate" tree crews.

One prominent, promising stand of nine young ash and oak along Main Street in Manayunk suffered illegal, destructive tree topping to open the line of sight for a billboard.

"Topping" is removing a tree's leader and upper branches; the mishappen result hinders a tree's healthy growth.

"Pirating" is the common trade term for destructive pruning or illegally removing trees.

In Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC) regulates tree work through a permitting process. Although the FPC investigates topping incidents, elusive "pirate" crews continue to illegally top or remove healthy trees.

Vigilance is an important part of being a Tree Tender. If you suspect a tree crew is doing questionable or unauthorized work, ask to see their FPC permit. And contact the FPC at 685-0106 to report the matter to your District Arborist.

Philadelphia Treebune
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street
5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 2666

April 1998

To schedule a Slide Show or Tree Walk in your neighborhood or for help planning an Arbor Day event, call Mindy at 988-8844.

Arbor Month Special

And your favorite Tree Tender is...

Let's stand up and applaud Tree Tenders who've gone the extra mile! Now's the time to nominate your favorite Tree Tenders and Tree Tender Groups. We welcome your suggestions for other worthy award nominations.

And remember to join us at the **Picnic With A Purpose** on **June 13** to celebrate!

Award categories are:

Tree Tenders' Group of the Year,
New Tree Tenders' Group,
Tree Tender of the Year,
Best Adopt-A-School Partnership,
Best Arbor Day Program.

Send nominations including a descriptive paragraph to Mindy Maslin, PHS, 5th Floor, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103 by June 5. Enclose a photo if possible.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is published quarterly by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.

Editor: **Charlotte Kidd**
Editorial direction: Mindy Maslin
Director of Publications: Jean Byrne

Funding: **The William Penn Foundation**

Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103.

Deadline for submissions to the July/August issue is April 25; October issue is July 22.

Printed on recycled paper.

Philadelphia *Treebune*

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 5 • No. 3 • July 1998

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Philadelphia Tree Tenders
now number 760.
They volunteer in
71 communities and 50 schools.

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Photo by Charlotte Kidd

Teachers Combine Tree Tending & Service Learning

Jeff Tober, PHS project coordinator, invites teachers to discuss community service learning at the Tree Tenders' Teachers Training.

Sixty teachers from elementary through high school levels participated in the first **Philadelphia Green Tree Tenders' Training for Teachers** this spring.

The three-part training dovetailed with the **Philadelphia School District**'s (PSD) service learning program. **Kenny Holdesman**, PSD director of community-based service learning, spoke. **Amber Cook**, of PSD's office of curriculum support for science teachers, helped develop this unique opportunity.

Teachers discussed designing student-centered tree projects and research activities beneficial to schools and communities.

Their ideas included service learning projects such as clearing vacant lots for tree planting, labeling trees near schools, and inventorying community trees.

Training also covered basic tree care information such as tree identification, pruning techniques and urban stresses.

The final session was a variety of workshops held at the **Awbury Arboretum**. Workshop leaders **Julianne Schieffer** of the Penn State Extension Service and **Hal Rosner** of Bartlett Tree Experts, Co. shared their expertise.

"Pruning is where science meets art," Hal told teachers. "Start out modestly. Think about what the tree will be like when the branch is gone." Concentrate on removing the 3 "D"s - dead, diseased, or dying branches.

Julianne explained new tree planting techniques, including the latest about mulching a tree pit. "Just apply a blanket of mulch," she said, rather than mounding the mulch into a donut-shape. An even mulch layer encourages roots in the new soil, giving transplants a better chance to adapt.

Janet Carter, **Jeff Tober**, and **Jacquelyn Wright** of PHS's Philadelphia Green also led workshops about planting trees, designing a school arboretum, and organizing an Arbor Day celebration.

"The training was a huge success," said Mindy Maslin, PG Outreach Coordinator. "Teachers asked for a fall reunion where they could discuss school projects."

Tree Tenders' Training for Teachers
Oct. 21, 24, and 28.
PSD teachers are eligible. To apply, call Mindy Maslin at 988-8844.

Branching Out

"Water Buffalo" in Clark Park

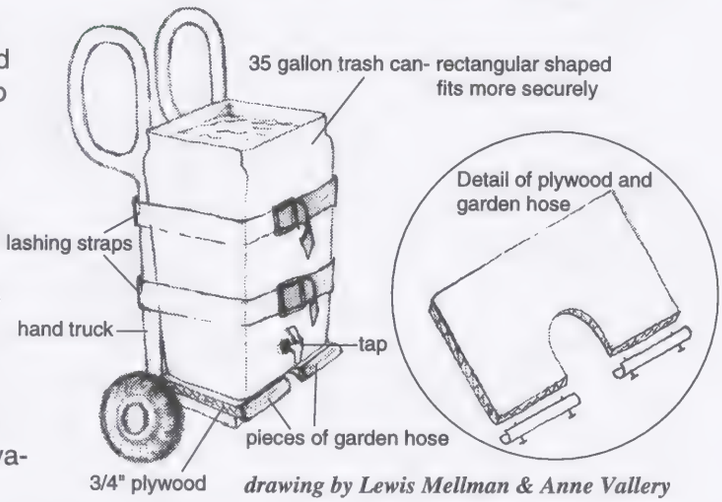
Thanks to **Tree Tender Lewis Mellman**, **Clark Park** in West Philadelphia has a tree-friendly "water buffalo."

Lewis created the portable device to water the trees he and other Tree Tenders and **Friends of Clark Park** planted around the large park. He strapped a 35-gallon trash can to a hand-truck and mounted a beer tap at the bottom.

Volunteers half-fill the trash can with a hose at the fire hydrant, then wheel the "water buffalo" from tree to tree. "We water a dozen trees in about an hour with a little over 50 gallons," **Clark Park Tree Tender Paul Brook** said.

Lewis, Paul, Clark Park Tree Tender Vanessa Lowry, Spruce Hill Tree Tender Amanda Benner and about a dozen Friends of Clark Park worked one long rainy day in April to plant 11 london plane trees and one serviceberry. The project was funded through the Friends of Clark Park shade tree fund, their general fund, and PHS and Pennsylvania Urban Resource Partnership grants.

CLARK PARK WATER BUFFALO



drawing by Lewis Mellman & Anne Vallery

Oak Lane Fundraiser: Music for an Urban Forest

Soprano Sheryl Woods Olson's performance at the **Oak Lane Tree Tenders' Benefit Concert** on May 22 was resounding.

Sheryl opened the evening with Handel's love song to a tree, "*Ombra mai fù*," from "*Serse*."

"Tender and beautiful branches of my beloved plain tree. For you fate brightly shines," she sang in Italian. The evening included operatic, popular, and spiritual selections.

Nearly 150 people filled the auditorium compliments of the **Korean United Church of Philadelphia** on Old York Road.

The recital raised about $1,350. The proceeds are more than enough to match a state grant for tree planting, said **Oak Lane Tree Tender Charles Philips**. "To reforest our community, we also plan to grow and transplant our own nursery stock."

Tree Tender Shirley Philips had proposed the fundraiser to her neighbor Sheryl, who sings professionally with companies such as the Santa Fe Opera and the New York City Opera. "When we asked her, she was enthusiastic and graciously donated her services," Charles said.

How to Build the "Clark Park Water Buffalo"

by Clark Park Tree Tender Lewis Mellman

Purchase hand-truck ($35), trash can, and lashing straps (available at Home Depot); beer tap ($5) from Home-Sweet Homebrew, (215) 569-9469 (Request the higher volume flow tap.).

Bolt a piece of 3/4-inch plywood to the tongue of the hand-truck.

Cut a notch in the plywood to protect the tap.

Nail two pieces of garden hose, split lengthwise, to the front of the plywood as a buffer to protect tree trunks.

Strap on the trash container.

Install the tap near the bottom of the container.

Add water until container is about half-full.

Travel from tree to tree, opening tap and watering generously.

Wissahickon Tree Tenders Clear Land for a Park

At the corner of Hermit and Manor Streets in Manayunk, **Wissahickon Tree Tenders** and neighbors are transforming an overgrown, trash-strewn lot into an attractive pocket park.

Making her way uphill and over sprouting knotweed to a thick stand of trees and shrubs, **Wissahickon Tree Tender Laura Moorhead** described the project.

"This is the first step in making this into a wooded park," she said in April. "We have an urban gardening agreement with the city. Before we plant, we have to clean up the lot."

About a dozen volunteers including the **Wissahickon Neighbors Civic Association** pruned wild roses, made quick work of a fallen tree, dug out knotweed, and removed concrete, mattresses, furniture, pipes, and debris. The group also is raising money to buy and plant trees and wildflowers.

In other reforesting efforts this May, Wissahickon Tree Tenders planted nine street trees thanks to a PHS grant of $1,275.

Arbor Celebrations

City Parks' Double-Header: Arbor & Earth Week

by Jeff Tober, PG Project Coordinator

How fortunate we are to have Arbor Day and Earth Day in the same week. This gives our neighborhood groups two good reasons to open their parks to celebrate the outdoors with children. During "Earth Week," groups at seven city parks hosted activities for nearly 2,500 children from schools in their communities. Special thanks to the **Philadelphia Department of Recreation** for making the parks look great and for providing sound systems.

Preparation started in January when park volunteers shared ideas at a Philadelphia Green planning session. Throughout the spring, the Friends' groups and volunteers organized April's excellent celebrations.

- In West Philadelphia at **Carroll Park** at 58th Street and Girard Avenue, children recycled more than 75 pounds of paper and helped City Councilman **Michael Nutter** raise the new park flag. At **Malcolm X Memorial Park**, 52nd and Pine Streets, **Huey Elementary School** students and teachers held a community cleanup, then picnicked to the jazz of "Vincent's Ear."
- In North Philadelphia at **Norris Square** at Diamond and Hancock Streets, children made recycled seed pots, learned to care for trees, watched worms inside a worm farm and ended the day by joining hands in a huge, community environmental circle.

  At **Fairhill Square** at 5th and Lehigh Streets, community members planted a golden-rain tree. Children in the after-school programs celebrated with songs from local musicians.
- In Germantown's **Vernon Park** on Germantown Avenue, students from 10 schools adopted trees, planted flowers, and visited environmental stations and a local story teller.
- In the Southwest, **Elmwood Park** at 71st and Buist Streets bustled with students planting a new flower bed, watering their adopted trees, and listening to volunteers who read stories.
- At **Wissinoming Park** in the Northeast, the community celebrated with a festival, park cleanup, and recycling drive.

Photo by Ira Beckoff

Elmwood Park youngsters enjoy stories at an Arbor/Earth Week fête.

Seniors & Students Celebrate Together

The University of Pennsylvania Health System's "Green Thumb Club" celebrated Arbor Day at the **Ralson House**, an education and wellness center for older adults in West Philadelphia.

Senior citizens joined second graders from the **Charles Richard Drew** and **Samuel Powel Elementary Schools** to learn about trees and their importance in the community. Philadelphia Green staff assisted at the event.

The program included planting seeds and making greeting cards and tree ring calendars as mementos.

In a *Build-a-Tree* sequence, youngsters demonstrated how trees grow by portraying the heartwood, sapwood, taproot, lateral roots, cambium/phloem and bark.

During a tree hunt, seniors and students identified and admired the Ralston House collection that includes magnolias, dogwoods, sycamores, japanese maples, and a horse chestnut.

Finally, everyone recited a pledge to protect and care for trees. It was a genuine demonstration of the importance of our relationships with each other and nature.

East Falls Honors Councilman Nutter

East Falls Tree Tenders held their Third Annual Arbor Day Festival at **Yard Park**, Ridge Avenue.

In the opening ceremony, they honored City Councilman **Michael Nutter** with their Second Annual Appreciation Award. A leading advocate for the urban environment, Nutter successfully guided a tree maintenance bill through City Council last year.

The morning program continued with a variety of "tremendous" activities for neighborhood volunteers and 180 students from preschool through eighth grade. **Sioux Baldwin** from the Andorra Nature Center and **Marlene Robinson** from the Peopling of Philadelphia Collaborative presented lively exhibits. The **Fairmont Park Frog** and **Captain Sewer** stopped by. FPC district arborist **Mike Helson** demonstrated tree planting in the park by installing two red maples.

Sponsored by **Amoco** and Philadelphia Green, this year's arbor celebration was the best so far. **Tree Tenders Sue Park** and **Alice Reiff** are veterans at coordinating this memorable event.

Arboreal Musings

Fairmount Park Commission Pruning Program Underway

By Walt Stankus, Park Manager, Fairmount Park Commission

On July 1, 1997 Mayor Ed Rendell signed City Ordinance Bill No. 960826-A that placed more responsibility for street tree removal and maintenance on the **Fairmount Park Commission** (FPC).

City officials supported the law with a $1 million boost to the Park's budget primarily for pruning.

In response, the FPC has undertaken an aggressive, two-year pruning program on about 14,000 street trees within all Philadelphia County zip codes.

Using a street tree inventory database, FPC staff identified street trees that need attention. FPC arborists followed up by inspecting those trees, then prioritizing all tree pruning in their districts.

Earlier this year, FPC hired a contractor to prune 6,768 street trees within 20 weeks. Subcontracted crews will work in each district until late June or early July.

After a second bid process this summer, another 6,700 trees will be pruned from the middle of July 1998 to the end of June 1999.

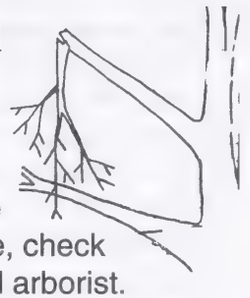
All sucker growth and dead wood greater than three-quarters inch or more than three feet long will be removed. Hazardous conditions will be corrected.

Where applicable, all trees will be cut back to 10 feet over sidewalks, 13 feet over regular streets, and 16 feet over major highways.

Trees also will be cut back to 10 feet from buildings, lights, signs, and poles and 12 feet from rooftops.

Pruning will be done according to ANSI A300-1995 Standards.

For pruning in your neighborhood



The FPC wants to provide Philadelphia citizens with a healthier urban forest. To request street tree pruning, homeowners should first call their district arborist. Because the park is organized into districts by zip code, check the following list for your location, district, and arborist.

We anticipate a lot of interest, so please be patient. Your request will be listed. Requests will be attended to as soon as possible within budget constraints.

Fairmount Park Commission Zip Code List and Districts

District #1	**District #2**	**District #3**
Arborist: **Mike Helsen**	Arborist: **Rich Sunday**	Arborist: **Ernie Barile**
Phone 685-0108	**685-1837**	**685-2577**
Zip Code		
19120	19102	19118
19122	19103	19119
19124	19106	19120
19125	19123	19126
19132	19130	19127
19133	19145	19128
19134	19146	19138
19137	19147	19141
19140	19148	19144
		19150

District #4	**District #5**
Arborist: **Gus Jardel**	Arborist: **Charles Patton**
1-610-352-8645	**685-8794**
19104	19111
19131	19114
19139	19115
19142	19116
19143	19135
19151	19136
19153	19149
	19151
	19154

Arbor-related Internet Sites:

National Arborist Association	http://newww.com/org/naa
TreeChat	http://www.aip.com/chat
American Forests	http://www.amfor.org

Photo by Charlotte Kidd

The Sidewalk Arborist

Getting to the "Root" of the Problem

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

This spring I attended "The Landscape Below Ground" seminar in San Francisco. It was the second such event for forestry researchers who study urban soil and tree roots.

With 24 presentations in two days, this year's LBG was intensive, covering subjects as diverse as root impact on sewer systems in Sweden to evaluating decay in the root flares.

Each presentation confirmed the basic principle for healthy trees: it all begins with roots and soil.

Leaves, flowers, and branches are integral, of course, but they depend on a functioning root system in synch with the soil.

Dr. Kim Coder of the University of Georgia shattered one paradigm with his talk about root intrusion, or more accurately, the perception that tree roots cause problems.

Understanding how trees grow and what they need can help us realize that the root "problem" comes from site and design shortcomings.

Roots are opportunists seeking to maximize resources at hand: lots of air, water, and nutrients.

We expect trees to behave, to be good and to grow tall, leafy, and green-just not beyond their cute three-feet-square planting pits.

In fact, we've probably created the root intrusion problem by planting a tree destined to be too large for the available space. We put it in a small pit surrounded by heavy clay soil that forces roots to grow near the surface.

The urban tree's agenda to survive at all costs creates "problems" for us humans, primarily in sidewalk and curb upheaval.

Philadelphia's bustling street tree collection runs the gamut: from state-of-the-art installations in the Center City District and the Avenue of the Arts to old-school pits complete with heaving sidewalk panels and cramped, agitated root flares.

Dr. Coder challenged urban foresters to a reality check. He told us to stop blaming the roots. Instead, we should move forward with tree-friendly pit designs and materials.

Choosing "tree-literate" materials will diminish tree root problems for the next generation. "If you build it correctly," Dr. Coder said, "they (roots) will not come (through the sidewalk)."

He suggested:

- using tree-friendly, state-of-the-art load-bearing soils. Engineered to have substantial pore space for oxygen exchange, they allow roots to spread deeply.
- using new, flexible staking and guying devices to support a tree yet allow it to sway. Movement encourages trunk expansion, a strong root system, and healthy trunk flares.
- using tree species "with lower soil oxygen requirements" such as elm, bald cypress, and london plane.

These days urban tree establishment and urban tree culture are getting thoughtful attention throughout the nation. It seems all bodes well for greener, more livable cities.

For more information about urban forestry issues and research, check the Web site www.forestry.uga.edu.

Photo by Charlotte Kidd

Junior Tree Tenders Thrive in Frankford

At the **Carmella Ditizio Recreation Center** on Wakeling Street in Frankford, young **Whitehall Tree Tenders** celebrated Arbor Day by planting corkscrew willow saplings to honor a friend, **Grant Blon**.

"Grant was our very first Clean and Green member in 1989," said **Tree Tender Carol Vanagaitis**. "Now he's serving his country as a U.S. Navy medic. We're proud, and we want to keep him with us by planting a grove of trees."

This four-year-old junior tree tender project nurtures youngsters, the recreation center, and the community as well as trees.

The volunteers, who are **Harding Middle Schoo**l students, are transforming the seven-acre site.

Through a recent alliance with the **Philadelphia Department of Recreation's Earth Yes!** program, the students meet daily after school to groom the park, grow plants, receive tutoring, and do homework.

"They've already tilled the soil for the *Feed the Hungry* garden," Carol said. "In the summer they take basketfuls of flowers and all kinds of vegetables to seniors in our neighborhood. The kids are having a great time. It's not just greening, it's caring for the entire environment."

Philadelphia Treebune
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
100 N. 20th Street
5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495
215-988-8800

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July 1998

Earth Yes!

Environmental Summer Day Camps
at 11 City Recreation Centers.
Starting July 6 for 10- to 14-year-olds.
Call (215) 686-0848 for details.

Post This who, what, when, where

SUMMER & FALL HIGHLIGHTS Training and Information

Wednesday, July 8
6:30-8:30 p.m.
FULL MOON
Summer Wissahickon Tree Walk
Potluck and a walk along the Wissahickon at Blue Bell Hill.
To RSVP and for directions, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Wednesdays, Sept. 16 & 23
Saturday, Oct. 3
Tree Tenders' Basic Training
Picnic With a Purpose - All Tree Tenders welcome
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., PA
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Thursday, Oct. 8
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Tour of the Philadelphia Zoo Arboretum
3400 W. Girard Ave.
Limited to the first 25 people who respond.
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Wednesdays Oct. 21 & 28
Saturday, Oct. 24
Tree Tenders' Training for Teachers
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., PA
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 5 • No. 4 • October 1998

TEENS TURN GREEN!

by Charlotte Kidd

Richard R. Brown did more than commune with nature at **Conservation Leadership School** (CLS) near State College, Pa.

In July, Richard and **Tamar Butler**, seniors at **Martin Luther King High School**, West Oak Lane, camped and conserved natural resources with 140 teens at **Penn State University**'s Stone Valley Recreation Area.

The two won scholarships to CLS by writing essays about conservation in the community. The contest originated through **The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Adopt-A-School Program**. Adopt-A-School projects involve students in tree care and other environmental activities.

"I just found my calling at camp," said Richard. "It was awesome, an extraordinary experience. We really lived on conserving. We learned so much in a short period of time and had fun too. It didn't seem like work."

Dr. Gary Peters, CLS planner at Penn State, said the CLS curriculum emphasizes field-based, hands-on learning, group problem-solving, and environmental resource planning.

Richard listed some projects they accomplished in two weeks: watershed assessment, wildlife diversity study, forest management, tree identification, and soil conservation.

"We even went to Penn State and discussed careers in the agricultural sciences," he said. He now works part-time with a local landscape company.

Tamar was also impressed. "I loved it, really. I liked working with the animals, the plants, and the environment," she said. She was amazed that they built solar panels to power a shower, radios, and lights.

Richard's high point was the public hearing about a resort proposed for Stone Valley. The teens argued against the development based on what they'd learned at camp, "for example, that chemicals from the golf courses and landscaping would drain into the water supply and nearby rivers like the Juniata," Richard said.

Back in West Oak Lane, he wants to involve fellow students in cleaning up their own backyards and creating a garden near the school "as a diverse habitat for birds and other creatures."

"Conservation excites me," added Richard. "I like to teach it. We have to continue the cycle, to pass on the knowledge we gather to others."

To encourage more students, Tree Tenders can start neighborhood Adopt-A-School programs. This fall's first Adopt-A-School organizational meeting is on Oct. 14. For details, contact Joan Blair at (215) 988-8843.

Between the leaves

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1998 Outstanding Tree Tenders & Groups

(Based on Tree Tender Nominations)

1998 Leadership Award
Laura Moorhead, Wissahickon Neighbors Civic Assoc. Tree Tenders

1998 Community Service Awards
Peter Varrecchia, South Philadelphia Tree Tenders

Rose Marie Pasicznyk, Fairmount Parents, Business, Neighbors Assoc.

Tree Tenders' Group of 1998
East Falls Tree Tenders

Adopt-A-School Award
Sue Parks and Alice Reiff, East Falls Tree Tenders

Tree Tender Most Likely to Go Pro
Jim Holloway, Awbury Arboretum Tree Tenders

1998 New Tree Tenders' Group **Wissahickon Neighbors Civic Assoc.**

"I feel it is our responsibility to ensure that we have a beautiful planet for our children and our children's children....Everyone of us should do simple things: for example, plant a tree, don't litter on land or sea, or pollute the air."

From Richard R. Brown's essay

Branching Out

Old Trees, Loyal Friends

By Bob Pierson, Gaskill Street Tree Tender

Gaskill Street Tree Tenders and neighbors are sentimental recyclers. We treasure our trees, alive and dead.

In the early 1970s, residents of the 300 block of Gaskill Street, near South Street, planted willow oaks and Bradford pear trees up and down the block.

A severe winter in the late '70s killed all but three oaks. The survivors grew large and stately, until the early 1990s, when one oak showed fewer and fewer leaves each spring. By 1996 we admitted it was dead, probably killed by a slow, underground gas leak.

Photo by Carolyn Whitfield

At a Gaskill Street block party, neighbors sit at the table of planks from the willow oak.

Block cleanup, then party

The year before our tree died, neighbors had started a summer tradition. Every Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day we get together for a block cleanup and tree tending followed by a block party.

After working, we set tables end-to-end on the street and cover them with a 75-foot long table cloth. Everyone brings a favorite dish and chairs. Then, we party.

Willow oak recycled

Two years ago, we wondered what to do about the dead oak. Admiring its straight, 24-inch trunk, we Tree Tenders decided to keep it for lumber.

After the Fairmount Park crew cut it down, we hauled the trunk—weighing more than a ton— to a Delaware County sawmill for cutting into planks one-inch thick. We stacked the lumber to dry for a year.

We have since planted another oak where the willow oak once stood, but we haven't forgotten our old friend. For every summer holiday block party, we lay its hefty oak planks over sawhorses to make tables.

We celebrate together, old friends and new.

Photo by Gail Hauptfuhrer

Gaskill Street residents load willow oak trunk into truck for the trip to the sawmill.

Mature Park Trees Get TLC

Mature mimosas and maples stand tall in Cianfrani Park, but not without the urban stresses of soil compaction and animal urine.

The remedy? **Friends of Cianfrani Park** and its **Tree Tenders** have taken the initial steps in a long-range beautification and reforesting project.

Nestled between Fitzwater and Pemberton streets in Bella Vista, Cianfrani Park is changing from a 'dog' park to a clean, attractive spot the whole neighborhood can enjoy.

"This is mostly a grass park, at least 30 years old, with a lot of trees; some were old and dying, some young and nice," explained **Roxanne Galiota**, a park 'Friend.'

Since 1995, the Friends have negotiated clean-up policies with dog-walkers, installed planters bursting with flowers, and replaced chain-link fencing with green tubular railing.

And they've nourished the trees.

"Our latest project was getting a tree care professional to do heavy pruning and aerate and feed the tree pits," said **Dennis McGlade**, a **Tree Tender** and park 'Friend.'

Professionals injected slow-release macronutrient fertilizer and mycorrhizae (fungi) root stimulant into the extremely poor soil.

"Systematically we should continue to feed them and do safety pruning," Dennis added. "We've been spending about $1,000 to $2,000 per year on the trees."

They also plan to reforest the park by replacing one declining tree each year with a healthy sapling and planting three more flowering trees and another large shade tree.

"We'll plant shade trees with the correct branching habit from the very beginning," Dennis assured.

A charitable, tax-deductible foundation, the Friends' fund park projects through donations, proceeds ($2,000 to $3,000) from an annual September fair, and the City. Henry "Buddy" Cianfrani, after whose mother, Vencenza, the park is named, is a generous and constant benefactor.

So You're Hiring a Professional To Prune

By Hal Rosner, Certified Arborist, Bartlett Tree Experts, Co.

Pruning is deceptive. The simple guidelines—the 3 Ds: dead, dying, diseased branches—become complex in the face of a 50-foot London planetree looming over street and sidewalk.

Tree Tenders focus on formative pruning of young trees. Encouraging good branch structure reduces or eliminates future maintenance headaches and expenses. Formative pruning concentrates on branch laterals that will become part of the mature tree. Branch laterals are attached to the main trunk at about a 90° angle and are spaced uniformly.

Young, well-cared-for trees usually grow surprisingly fast. When they're big and tall and the pole-pruner can't do the job, it's time to pass the hat and hire a tree care professional.

Whether it is taking advantage of Fairmount Park's pruning program or hiring an arborist, Tree Tenders can be informed consumers. When you and your neighbors understand and recognize good pruning, it's easier to communicate your needs to the proper authority.

Bad pruning

What exactly is "bad pruning?" The three great malpractices are topping, overthinning, and overpruning lower limbs. With these, the mentality is "more is better." The results can be devastating to both tree and tree-lover.

Topping is wholesale cutting of branches. Topping leaves stubs and disfigures branches, so the tree resembles a rack of deer antlers.

Overthinning involves cutting out all but the farthest small interior branches and suckers along a limb, starting from the trunk and moving outward. The result, a limb bare but for the final two to three feet of growth, has been likened to a lion's tail.

Overpruning lower limbs throws the crown's natural habit out of kilter.

ANSI pruning standards

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI A300) publishes pruning standards to help prevent tree pruning gone awry. Knowing the ANSI's basic pruning standards language helps when writing specifications for one or a group of trees.

Pruning possibilities vary with tree variety and tree age. For example, judicious "crown thinning" may be in order for a block with a monoculture of 15-year-old Bradford pears. Ornamental pears benefit from regular thinning to encourage and maintain branch structure.

But how much thinning? Professionals prune to thin about 10 to 20 percent on mature trees and up to 25 percent on young trees.

Pruning specifications for a collection of 50-year-old London planetrees would be different. The emphasis would be "crown cleaning" to remove dead and dying branches.

A professional tree care company should be well aware of the A300 pruning specs. An ISA-certified arborist should be able to write pruning specifications that reflect the tree collection's particular needs.

Photo by Gail Hauptfuhrer

Tree Planting & Tree Farm Workshop Small-tree Give-away

Tree Tenders' Continuing Ed Sat., Oct. 24, noon to 2 p.m. Greene Street Friends Tree Lab 5511 Greene St., Germantown For details, call Mindy, (215) 988-8844.

ANSI Pruning Standards

ANSI A300 pruning standards are the basis for professional pruning specifications. Pruning specs can be written in many combinations; they vary according to tree age and species. Not all methods are appropriate for every tree or tree collection. ANSI standards specify:

Branch size: Establishing the minimum or maximum size of branches to be removed determines amount of pruning.

Pruning objectives:
Hazard reduction pruning reduces danger from visible tree hazards such as dead limbs over a park bench.

Maintenance pruning maintains or improves tree health and structure (includes hazard reduction pruning).

Both pruning objectives involve the following **Pruning Methods**:
Crown cleaning: selectively removing dead, dying, diseased, or weak branches, water sprouts.

Crown thinning: selectively removing branches to reduce weight and increase light and air penetration.

Crown raising: selectively removing lower branches for clearance.

Crown reduction or shaping: decreasing a tree's height or spread according to species adaptability.

Crown restoration: pruning to improve the structure, form, and appearance of trees that have been severely headed, vandalized, or storm-damaged.

Post This: Who, What, When, Where

FALL & WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, Oct. 3
10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Pot Luck Picnic With a Purpose
Susquehanna and Frankford Aves., New Kensington
For directions, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Thursday, Oct. 8
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tour of the Philadelphia Zoo Arboretum
3400 W. Girard Ave.
Limited to the first 25 people who respond
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-884

Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 8 & 9

Statewide Urban Forestry Conference
Innovative projects such as "Pennsylvania Communities & Utilities Working Together" on Thursday and "Arboriculture & the Law" on Friday.
Harrisburg Community College, Harrisburg, PA
For details, contact Bill Elmendorf, (814) 863-7941.

Wednesday, Oct. 14
4-6 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Training for Teachers and Adopt-A-School Meeting
Lecture: Al Ozer, Kensington High School teacher, service learning expert, and Kate Loal, Huey Elementary School teacher
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., PA
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Wednesdays, Oct. 21 & 28
4-6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Tree Tenders' Training for Teachers
Registration limited.
PHS, 100 North 20th St., Phila., PA
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Saturday, Oct. 24, noon-2 p.m.

Tree Farm Workshop, Small-tree Give-away, and Tree Planting Demo
Greene Street Friends School, 5511 Greene St.
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Sunday, Nov. 8
noon

Third Annual Bike Ride of Philadelphia's Unique Trees
Beginners welcome on this slowly paced, less than 20-mile tour.
Begins at Lloyd Hall (new building), Boathouse #1, Kelly Drive
Helmets required. *For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.*

Thursday, Dec. 2
To be announced

Building in the Green Conference
Villanova University. *For details, contact Julianne Schieffer, (610) 489-4315.*

Sunday, Jan. 17
1:30-4 p.m.

Winter Tree Walk in the Wissahickon and Storytelling
Hot cider provided. Thomas Mansion, Wissahickon Avenue, Fairmount Park
For details, call Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is published quarterly by
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Editor: **Charlotte Kidd**
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Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, PHS, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103.

Deadline for submissions for the January 1999 issue is November 5, 1998.
The *Philadelphia Treebune* is printed on recycled paper.

Philadelphia Treebune

from THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Vol. 6 • No. 1 • January 1999

The Zoo's Secret Garden

by Charlotte Kidd

Notice any tall, century-old surprises standing between the birds and the bears at the Zoological Society of Philadelphia?

Thanks to zoo staff, Tree Tenders spotted them during a unique tour of the zoo's arboretum last October. Rod Haines, the zoo's Horticultural Foreman, led the way sharing tree tidbits.

"We offered this because part of the Tree Tenders' program is not only to educate but also to open up resources in the city," Rod said. "Everybody can come to the zoo, not only for the animals but for its collection of trees, shrubs, and perennials."

Of the zoo's 2,000 tree specimens, Rod focused on 10 of significance. Many were planted in honor of the nation's 1876 Centennial. Most are labeled with an interpretive sign, common and species names, and a metal zoo ID tag.

"The tour was fun," said Pam Hoffman, Upper Roxborough Tree Tender. "We got to see the habit of old and fully developed oaks where they had elbow room to grow."

The map and tree list are your introduction to the Philadelphia Zoo's garden of trees, 3400 W. Girard Avenue.

Between the leaves

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University City Green ..... p. 2
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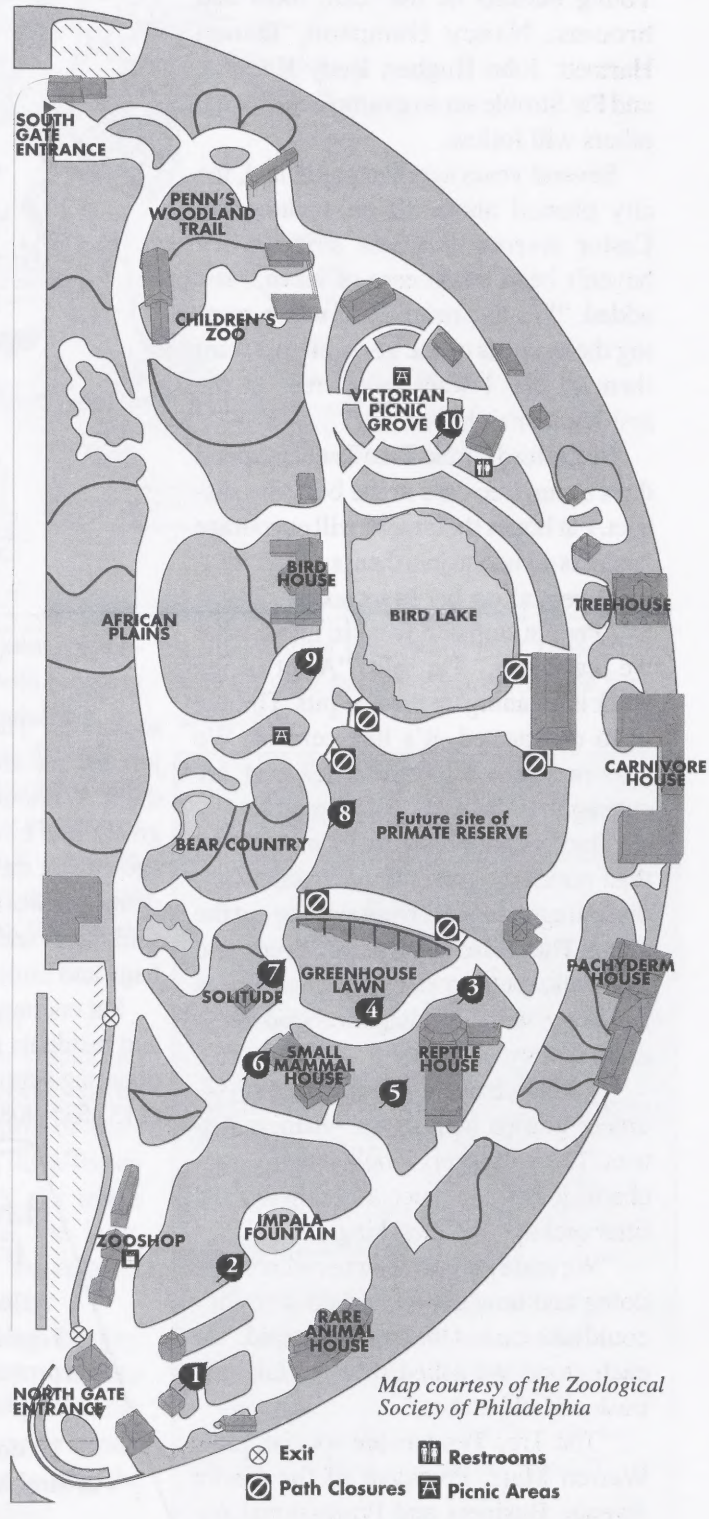
Impact in West Kensington ..... p. 4

Philadelphia Zoo
Interpretive Tree List

1. *Platanus x acerfolia*
   London planetree
   About 100 years old
   Centennial tree
2. *Ginkgo biloba*
   Ginkgo
   Unusually multi–stemmed
   Centennial tree, 1874
3. Chestnut Conservation Garden
   Castanea dentata
   Two American chestnuts, upright form, in foreground; one Chinese chestnut, rounded form, in rear
4. *Ulmus americana*
   American elm
   More than 100 years old
   About 150–foot canopy
5. *Ulmus procera*
   English elm that John Penn planted more than 200 years ago
6. *Cercidiphyllum japonica*
   Katsura
   About 45 years old
   Neat, buttress trunk
7. *Cladrastis kentukea*
   American yellowwood
   Native. One of zoo's oldest. Tall leader removed to save tree; four side limbs remain.
   18–foot girth
8. *Paulownia tomentosia*
   Royal paulownia
   More than 120 years old
   You could climb inside!
   Centennial tree
9. *Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum'
   Japanese maple
   More than 100 years old
10. *Fraxinus americana*
    White ash, native
    About 60 feet tall with 100–foot canopy



Map courtesy of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia

Branching Out

Oxford Circle Tree Tenders Cultivate Merchants

By Charlotte Kidd

Oxford Circle Tree Tenders are stirring interest along Castor Avenue. Toting buckets of tree care tools and brooms, Nancy Hampson, Donna Hartnett, John Hughes, Betty Kitenko, and Pat Stroble set an example they hope others will follow.

Several years ago, Pat explained, the city planted about 30 trees along the Castor Avenue business strip. "They haven't been taken care of since," she added. "We live nearby and we're reaping the benefits of the trees. I don't want them to die. I want more trees in the residential neighborhood."

So Oxford Circle Tree Tenders spend days doing tree care in the business district. Pat hopes their work will encourage business owners to join them and the city to plant trees along her street soon.

"People stop and want to know what we are doing," Pat said. "A lot of the work is cleaning up the tree pits. The dirt is so compacted, it's like cement. We also remove or loosen wires that are cutting into the bark. And we prune."

They've found that loosening rather than removing guide wires from trunks discourages vandals from ripping out the trees. They also sweep the street and sidewalk, putting debris in trash bags they buy with the neighborhood recycling money.

The merchants are happy to see volunteer groups help in the business district. The volunteers would like the merchants to do more such as tree watering, litter pickup, and mulching.

"We told every store owner what we're doing and how they could do it so they could take care of the trees," Pat said. "At each store, we asked them to take the trash and old stakes."

"The Tree Tenders are special," said Warren Matz, President of the Castor Avenue Business and Professional Association. "They are doing a wonderful job and we are very much indebted to them. Without them we would have to go out and hire gardening people. This shows that the businesses and the residents can work hand-in-hand." Warren said he's seeking donations of trash bags and mulch.

Pat encourages business owners and residents interested in helping or donating supplies to contact her at (215) 535-9087.

Photo by Charlotte Kidd

Dodging traffic on Castor Avenue in the Northeast, Oxford Circle Tree Tenders loosen wires and cultivate a compacted tree pit.

Have any extra traffic cones?

Oxford Circle Tree Tenders could use them as protection while working along busy Castor Avenue.

To donate cones, contact Pat Stroble at (215) 535-9087.

University Students Take to the Trees

Last September, more than 50 university students, staff, and community residents descended on Baltimore and Pine at 39th and 40th streets. Under the guidance of Philadelphia Green and Baltimore Avenue in Bloom, the University City Green volunteers limbed up street trees and planted scores of flowering bulbs.

"We would like to turn University City into a garden district," said Esaul Sanchez, Director of Neighborhood Initiatives, University of Pennsylvania. "We do activities that involve residents as well as students who work and live here every day.

Several became Tree Tenders last year. "We always bring enough people who know what they are doing to help the unskilled volunteers learn to do what is right," Esaul added. "We intend to develop a core of skilled volunteers."

Guest Columnist

Who's Tree Is It Anyway?

By Patricia Crossan, Arborist, Fairmount Park Commission

In heavy rain and whipping wind, a nearby London planetree wrenches free and crashes. Its trunk and broken limbs weigh heavy across two yards and into the street. Who's responsible for cleanup and damages?

Many Philadelphians know that the city, through the Fairmount Park Commission (FPC), is responsible for the care of street trees. Street trees line our public right-of-way between the curb and sidewalk along city streets.

When a street tree needs pruning or is a safety hazard, the remedy is clear. The FPC inspects the situation, then either lists the tree for future work or solves the problem as quickly as possible.

Private trees; public streets

When a tree falls from a private yard across the public right-of-way (street), FPC crews remove the debris up to the private homeowner's property line. The homeowner is responsible for the remaining debris and tree removal.

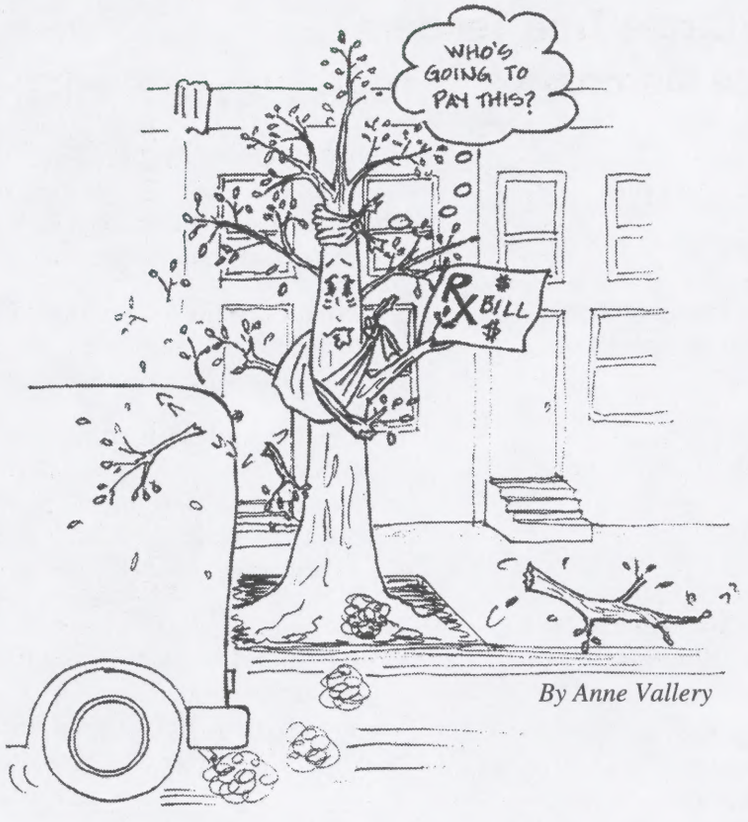
Private property

After a storm, the city is deluged with calls about fallen trees. Many of these aren't the city's responsibility.

Trees in a homeowner's yard are the homeowner's responsibility. If a tree leaning into the street is dangerous, the homeowner can be cited for the hazardous condition. The homeowner, not the city, is responsible for a remedy or removal.

Hazardous trees; abandoned lots

A problematic tree on an abandoned vacant lot is the property owner's responsibility unless the city has assumed ownership. When the city owns the abandoned property, the Philadelphia Department of Licenses and Inspection is responsible for resolving problems.



By Anne Vallery

Alley trees

A tree in an alley is the joint responsibility of all homeowners with property abutting the alley. In Philadelphia, an alley is considered a private driveway. It makes no difference if only one homeowner is affected negatively or the tree blocks the entire alley. All property owners along an alley are equally liable and responsible for correcting tree-related problems.

Find the owner

Trees that fall through the cracks can be major headaches to all affected. In the case of a hazardous condition or tree-related damages or injuries, the affected person must try to identify the tree's owner. Then she or he has the long, painful process of making the responsible party remedy the problem.

Sadly, most people calling the city for help are bounced from department to department only to find out some unknown or unavailable property owner is responsible. Their recourse may be arduous and costly legal action.

If locating the owner isn't possible, contact your political representative for assistance.

from PHS's Nov. 9 forum, Green Spaces in Urban Places

Excerpts from John Dwyer, USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station, Chicago

People have deep emotional, symbolic, and spiritual connections to trees. Studies show that people work harder, relax better, and recover from injury more quickly when they see trees.

As tree stewards, we are "a part of 'green medicine' -making life better through trees."

The Taiwanese refer to walking in the forest as a "green shower."

Post This: Who, What, When, Where

1999 WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Sunday, Jan. 17
2 pm-5 pm

Storytelling and Winter Tree Walk in the Wissahickon Woods
Bring stories to share. Hot cider provided.
Thomas Mansion in Fairmount Park, 6245 Wissahickon Avenue, Germantown
For details, call PHS Project Manager Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Sunday, Jan. 24
10:00 am-12 noon

TuBsvat (Jewish Arbor Day) Celebration
Children's activities include arts and crafts, seed potting, and Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax.*
Jewish History Museum, 55 N. 2nd St., Phila. (215) 923-3811

Saturday, Feb. 20
9:30 am-12 noon

Winter Tree Identification
Tracy Kay, Executive Director of The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, will lead a nature center tour followed by an indoor/outdoor workshop.
The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, 8480 Hagey's Mill Road, Phila.
For information, call PHS Outreach Coordinator Joan Blair, (215) 988-8843.

Wednesday, March 24
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Philadelphia's Watersheds, Trees, and Us
Drew Brown, Manager of Public Education for the Philadelphia Water Department, will discuss Philadelphia's water supply, watersheds, and their protection.
The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th St., Phila.
RSVP to PHS Project Manager Mindy Maslin, (215) 988-8844.

Ready, Set, Grow in West Kensington!

From treeless community to urban forest? "Why not!" exclaimed members of Pennsylvania Urban Resources Partnership (PURP) Green Team 2 project at Impact Services Corp.

Finishing their 1998 season, they planted the last of 36 trees at the new outdoor classroom they built in West Kensington on a site donated by the Penn Pad Company.

Last year, 269 Stetson Middle School students joined more than 170 other Elkin School students and 90 community, Impact, Awbury Arboretum, Village of Arts and Humanities, and church group volunteers. Together they served the community by planting trees, cleaning up graffiti, painting murals, and building garden beds.

"Our greening work has been a fabulous tool for bringing people together," said Phyllis Martino, Impact's Director of Economic Development and PURP Project Manager. "Over the last three years we've planted more than 200 trees. We are especially thrilled that the greening work has provided the children with so many opportunities to learn, meet great people from across the city, and do constructive things in the community."

Impact and its broad-based team plan to plant a "Ribbon of Green" with more than 100 trees along a mile of Allegheny Avenue in 1999. Stay tuned.

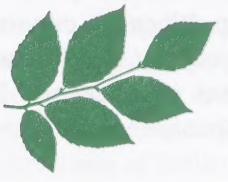
The ***Philadelphia Treebune*** is published quarterly by The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Philadelphia Green Program.

Editor: **Charlotte Kidd**
Editorial direction: Pamela Vu & Mindy Maslin
Manager Publications: Pete Prown

Funding: **The William Penn Foundation**

Send comments, stories, inquiries to: Mindy Maslin, PHS, 100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103 or Charlotte Kidd, Box 631, Flourtown, PA 19031; e-mail *CharKidd@aol.com.*

Deadline for submissions for the April 1999 issue is January 29, 1999. The *Philadelphia Treebune* is printed on recycled paper.

We want to hear from you! Any suggestions? Drop us a line and let us know how the Philadelphia Treebune can better help Tree Tenders!

Mindy Maslin, PHS,
100 N. 20th St., Phila., PA 19103
or
Charlotte Kidd
Box 631, Flourtown, PA 19031;
e-mail: *CharKidd@aol.com*